Annual Report 2005

**Association for
Progressive Communications
(APC)**

Cover illustrations: Matias Bervejillo for APC

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Introduction to the APC Annual Report 2005

**Anriette Esterhuysen
APC Executive Director**

15 years of APC networking

APC's fifteenth year will be remembered with a sense of bereavement as well as achievement. Networks gain their energy and character from the people inside them, and the loss of a close network partner makes a difference. One of APC's longest-serving council and board members, Chris Nicol from Pangea in Barcelona, died on 29 August.[1]

At the same time, the APC network continued to grow in size and diversity. This was demonstrated powerfully at two events in 2005. First, the APC council meeting in October in Varna, Bulgaria, where some of APC's founders gathered together with new members and staff. And, second, the culmination of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis in November, where the APC stand, inside the Building Communications Opportunities (BCO) village in the exhibition centre, overflowed with members and partners from around the world.

APC's reflection on the WSIS: Four years of pushing and prodding

Being active in the WSIS often felt like the proverbial attempt at finding the forest amongst the trees, and not losing sight of the fact that without trees there would be no forest! Key issues, such as access to infrastructure, capacity, knowledge and information, freedoms and rights, and diversity of cultures, ownership and content in the world of information and communications, which have become increasingly crucial to development and socially-just societies, were sidelined by the complexity of the process.

How did APC respond to this? As a network committed to the use of information and communication technologies for social justice and sustainable development, we believe that the ability to access, produce and share information is a key requirement for creating more equal and just societies. We approached the WSIS from this perspective, and promoted the idea that the internet is a global public good to be developed and governed in the public interest. We were not alone, as many others in civil society were part of this process.

Our assessment of the outcomes of the WSIS are mixed. There were some gains, and these are outlined in the Communications and Information Policy Programme report, below. We certainly felt

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[1] Read APC's tribute to Chris Nicol on page 72.

that participating and using WSIS to build stronger national and regional policy advocacy awareness and networks was more productive than not participating would have been.

In late 2005, APC produced a reflection on the value of our involvement in the WSIS. I'm going to quote part of it in full. It's long, but it clearly states our conclusions:

> WSIS has been basically a discursive exercise and at this point its outcomes impact more in the *virtual* areas of networking, and political debate than in the area of *concrete* decisions. Wider political debate, and the extensive multi-dimensional networking and relationship building produced by a four-year process are significant, and could potentially set all kinds of changes and actions in motion.
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> But, it is early days. The eventual impacts will only be evident in the next few years. It will depend on action and collaboration at regional and national level; on southern governments forming alliances, working together, taking risks (e.g. saying no to binding deals with large multinational software companies), creating competitive environments for business and opportunities for local initiatives, and ensuring that private monopolies do not take over from public monopolies.
>
> There is no guarantee that governments will do this, or even that intergovernmental organisations will facilitate such action. However, civil society organisations (CSOs) can make sure that we keep pushing and prodding, goading and hand-holding – depending on what is required at different junctures.
>
> The cost-versus-benefit question is a very difficult one to answer. Taking a hard look at concrete outcomes of WSIS, one would have to say that it was not worth the money and time. However, the power of networking, and the intended and unintended consequences of having so many people interacting with one another on a set of issues for an extended period should not be underestimated.
>
> People drive change, and changing how people think and act is not a trivial process. WSIS for all its flaws did change the way in which many people think about ICTs for development. It produced many new relationships, many of them between national civil society, government and business. People and organisations have the capacity to be creative, and to innovate.
>
> Did WSIS produce the political will from governments that would provide a suitable backdrop for this creativity? The answer varies from country to country, but in many developing countries post-WSIS there is now far more focus on the integration of ICTs and information and communications with social, economic and political development than there was before.

Reflecting specifically on the APC community's involvement in WSIS, we feel that overall it was worthwhile. APC members are concerned with organising and collaborating for change at the local level, through building community wireless networks, telecentres, building capacity of women's organisations, ICT support for human rights and environmental activists and for the community media sector, through working for trade justice, local ICT policy advocacy, and all the other 'nuts and bolts' social change work that we are part of, directly or indirectly. The summit itself created an opportunity for people in our networks who had never attended large international forums to learn, to blog, to explore new tools and technologies, and to take a hard and critical look into a global policy making process.

As a network, we try to reflect critically on our work, to be accountable in our actions and our relationships with the communities and partner organisations we work with. For us, WSIS was a valuable opportunity. It did not provide the answers and actions we hoped it would, but we believe that our involvement will enrich our ongoing work at international, regional and local levels.[2]

APC and partners during the WSIS process. Photo: Al Alegre

An outside voice was less ambiguous. One of the most tireless facilitators of civil society participation in the process, Rik Panganiban, at the time communications coordinator of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO), in a blog post entitled "APC: The Unsung Hero of the WSIS", critiqued the APC self-evaluation:

What they left out of the report was how great of a role APC themselves played in supporting civil society involvement in the WSIS. By mobilising their own national-based partners, APC was able to greatly expand the participation of NGOs from around the world and in particular the developing world. Under-resourced NGOs from Asia and Latin America in particular I believe would not have been involved in the WSIS had APC not informed and supported them.

Beyond just NGO outreach, APC leadership was central to the effectiveness of a number of key WSIS structures, such as the Working Group on Internet Governance, the UN ICT Task

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2 Taken from "Pushing and prodding, goading and hand-holding. Reflection from the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) at the conclusion of the World Summit on the Information Society", February 2006. http://rights.apc.org/documents/apc_wsis_reflection_0206.pdf

Force, the "content and themes" civil society committee, and the various substantive issue-caucuses.

He concludes that, without APC's active involvement, he has "grave doubts as to whether or not civil society would have done any effective monitoring or lobbying at the WSIS. I hope they remain engaged through the much dicier national and international implementation phase."[3]

Our vigorous network is alive and kicking after fifteen years

Information graphic (right): The APC community includes members, staff, and partners we work with.

Matias Bervejillo for APC

APC was founded in 1990, though mentions of an 'APC' and the idea of what APC is are present in documentation dating from 1987. Some of the faces from the late 1980s even returned to the APC council meeting in 2005.

In reflecting on the last fifteen plus years, I think that what APC has achieved is not just building a network, but learning to do all our work in a networked way. This has implications for productivity. It can slow processes down, lead to internal debate, and having to constantly manage new perspectives, opportunities and challenges. But there is no doubt that it leads to greater sustainability of the work that we do, collectively with members and partners.[4]
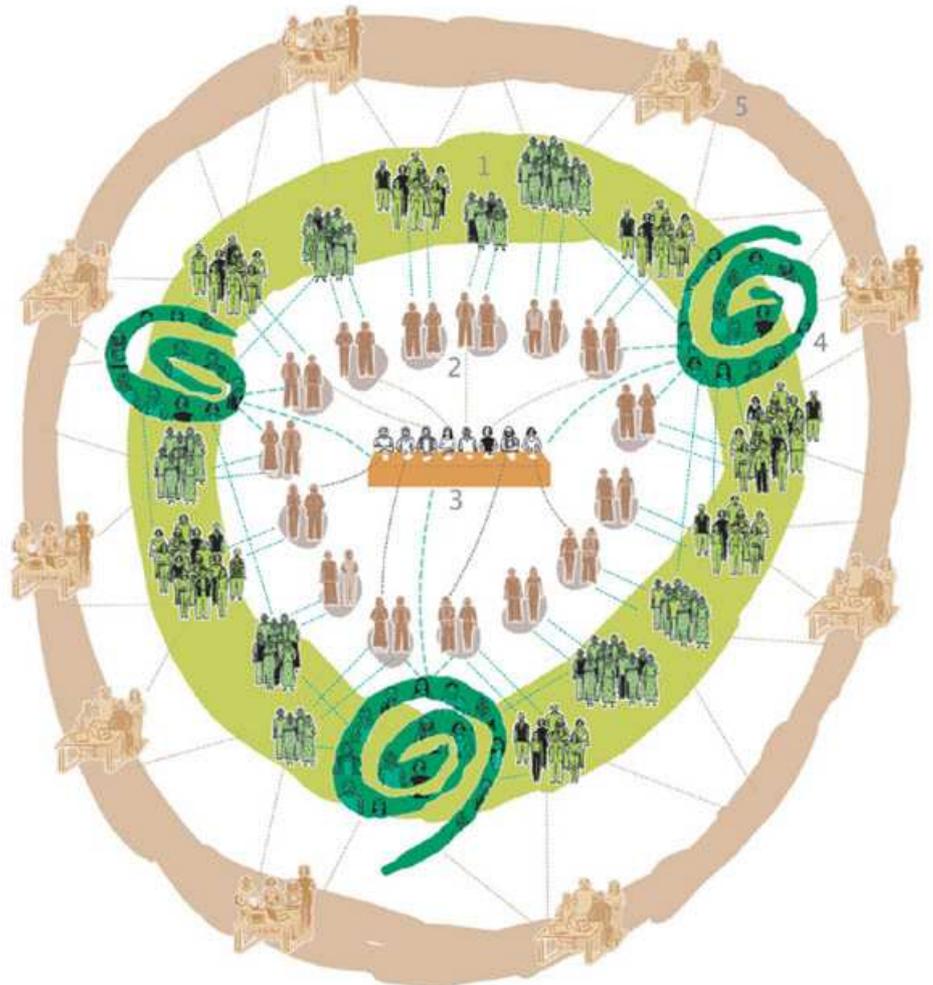
1 Members Miembros Membres

2 Council Consejo Conseil

3 Executive board Junta Conseil exécutif

4 Staff & programmes Equipo y programas Equipe et programmes

5 Partners Socios Partenaires

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[3] Posted on 8 March 2006 by Rik Panganiban.
  http://www.rikomatic.com/blog/2006/03/apc_the_unsung_.html#comment-18823785
[4] In APC, we refer to the organisations and people that we work with in projects as our "partners".

I was recently asked what I felt were the three key ingredients for successful partnerships. Based on my experience of working in the APC community since 1990, I believe they are respect, transparency and passion. Of course, there are other important factors such as common values, goals and interests, but without respect for one another, transparency in the work process, and passion for the issues, they are not enough to keep networks alive.

I was asked what the three key ingredients for successful partnerships are. I believe they are respect, transparency and passion. Without them you cannot keep a network alive.

Respect and transparency require hard work, constantly striving to share information effectively and to work inclusively. Passion comes with the people in the network, and this continues to be a distinctive characteristic of the APC.

I want to thank APC council members, those who have been around for more than a decade, and those who have joined us recently. They contribute in very different ways. As a collective, they define what APC is by setting our long-term priorities; as individuals, some take on the time-consuming, energy-consuming role of serving as board members; as organisations, they get involved in implementing APC projects in their local realities.

From recycling computers for use in hot, tropical climates, to building free software applications for local government transparency, to engagement with our network's internal governance and accountability, APC members commit an extraordinary degree of time, effort and passion to their work.

APC executive board members deserve special recognition. Thank you to Julian Casasbuenas, outgoing chair in 2005, and incoming chair, Natasha Primo, and to the other board members—incoming and outgoing—who served in 2005: Olinca Marino, Danijela Babic, Mark Graham, Mihaly Bako, Danilo Lujambio, Kong "Da" Sidaroth, Valentina Pellizzer, Andrew Garton, John Dada and Oh Byoung-il.

Many thanks to APC's donor and project partners, without whom we would do less, achieve less and learn less. And finally, thank you to the APC staff team, a group of unique and committed individuals. Without the mix of commitment, eccentricity, creativity and skill they bring to our work, this report would be shorter, and much less interesting.

— Anriette Esterhuysen, APC executive director

Message from the Chair of the APC Executive Board

Natasha Primo
APC Chair

2005 was another packed year for APC. We had the culmination of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process with a UN summit in Tunis; an APC council meeting in Varna on the coast of the Black Sea in Bulgaria, where representatives from every APC member organisation got together face-to-face; and very sadly, the death of one of our longest-standing APC colleagues—and friend—Chris Nicol.

APC a key nodal point for global civil society activism

The year 2005 is probably best remembered by the ICT4D[5] community as one bringing to a formal end a long process of advocacy around WSIS. For APC staff and members, 2005 was the culmination of five years of intense and varied advocacy processes around the World Summit at the global, the regional, as well as the local levels. Through the generous sharing of its technical knowledge, and the considerable political and organising capacity of its staff and members, APC became a key nodal point for global civil society activism and advocacy during the WSIS.

The APC's policy advocacy work is conceptualised to build understanding and spur ICT4D activism on different levels. Within the APC community, much effort went into deepening APC members' understanding and engagement with ICT policy issues through, among others, the regional and national ICT policy monitor portals, the Issue Papers, and by providing support for members to participate in as many regional and global WSIS meetings as was possible. At the regional level, for example, APC's engagement in the Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa (CATIA) project worked to strengthen multi-stakeholder advocacy for ICT policy shifts in a number of African countries by building state, media, and private sector collaboration, while also deepening public awareness and interest in ICT policy.

Tunis summit a practical test of APC's commitment to human rights

During the summit in Tunis, APC staff and members demonstrated their politics, mettle and sense of community. The flow of APC members, partners and friends made sure that the BCO pavilion—which APC shared with our BCO partners—was one of the busiest in the Exhibition Hall.

A large part of our work at the summit was to follow the governmental debates and processes in order to understand and assess what gains our engagement in the civil society community had won for those on the wrong side of the digital divide, and what programmatic implications this would

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[5] ICT for development

hold for APC.

At the same time, it was imperative that the APC's work also find practical expression in a way that unequivocally demonstrated its commitment to human rights in the information society. APC's role in successfully helping organise a press conference by Tunisian human rights groups to highlight the repression of human rights in the country—after months of having had their meetings either banned and broken up by police—was one of the most gratifying experiences in our involvement in the WSIS processes.

The APC commitment to advocate and ensure meaningful participation of civil society in internet governance in the post-WSIS period is signalled by our promotion of civil society participation in structures like the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) and the formations structures agreed to in the Tunis Agenda.

APC's Strategic Uses and Capacity Building - a magnet for social justice activists

Most ICT4D activists and organisations first encounter the APC through our Strategic Uses and Capacity Building (SU&CB) programme, which offers opportunities for groups such as human rights organisations to build their capacity to use ICTs more effectively for social justice and development. This year, the SU&CB programme continued its work to expand the abilities of members and other groups we work with to deploy affordable, accessible and reliable technology options in resource-poor environments, promoting cheaper networking options through the regional workshops on community wireless connectivity and the ongoing promotion of FOSS tools. The work on the ActionKit—a toolkit for activists that integrates Drupal elements into the APC-developed content management system ActionApps—will not only expand the value and functionality of the ActionApps for members and others who use it, but also connect the APC technology support community with other developer communities. This kind of cross-fertilisation of communities and useful tools can only benefit the APC community and strengthen members' work with grassroots communities in their own regions and countries.

Bridging the gender digital divide

The APC Women's Networking Support Programme continues to grow in strength. The gender and ICT policy monitor—genderit.org—is a flagship, and together with the Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM), is key to efforts to bridge the gender digital divide. One of the key challenges

for the APC Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP) is to instil an understanding of ICT issues within the global women's movement. The issue papers, which demonstrate the connections between ICT and violence against women, go some way to demonstrating why feminist and women's empowerment activists should take up ICT as an issue for the global women's movement. This challenge is, however, not one that the APC WNSP can tackle on their own, and there is broad scope for APC members to integrate gender issues into their local and national programming to promote digital inclusion.

Varna council re-evaluates priorities

Outgoing APC Chair, Julian Casasbuenas, opens the APC 2005 council meeting in Varna, Bulgaria. Photo: APC

In October 2005, the APC council met in Varna. Council meetings are spaces where APC members can re-evaluate the priorities of the APC network as a whole, affirm these priorities, or begin identifying gaps that need addressing. As we are midway through the current planning cycle, the Varna council meeting was not so much to set priorities, but more an opportunity for sharing and reconnecting as a community and to build internal network capacity around aspects like technology planning and open access design.

As with all face-to-face council meetings, a new executive board was elected for the next two years. On behalf of the entire executive board, we thank the members for the confidence you exhibited in our ability to represent the ideas and interests of the network.

The Death of Chris Nicol: Celebrating the life of a comrade

Varna was also the first gathering of the APC community following the death of Chris Nicol in August 2005. It was good and fitting that we were able to come face-to-face to remember Chris and express our loss and our farewell to both a comrade in the battle for human rights and justice, and a friend. In his memory, in 2006 the APC will launch the Chris Nicol Award to honour initiatives that make it easy for communities to start using free and open source software. Hamba Kahle, Chris. Go well, rest in peace.

To conclude, I would like to welcome all new members who joined APC in 2005: ESLARED in Venezuela, WOUGNET (Women of Uganda Network) in Uganda, and Ungana-Afrika in South Africa. I hope that you will feel enriched by this community, as we are by your participation in the network.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all the staff for their unflagging activism and commitment to the work of the APC, to all APC members and partners who give practical expression to the ideals of the APC network through their work in different communities, as well as to the donors who help make this possible through their generous support.

— Natasha Primo, APC chair (2005–07)

APC Programme Achievements in 2005

APC achieves our goals through the combined efforts of our international community of members and strategic allies, and a small staff team. Together, we face the challenges of constant change and development in ICTs on the one hand, and increasing social inequality on the other.

We channel our energy and resources through three programme areas: communications and information policy; strategic use of ICTs and capacity building; and women's networking support. APC also has several management systems, and we include reports from the networking and advocacy and communications, media and promotions systems here.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION POLICY PROGRAMME (CIPP)

CIPP is active in three policy spaces—global, regional and national—in response to the priorities laid out in APC's strategic plan for 2004–08. Why do we spread ourselves across these spaces, given the fact that APC is a small organisation and the policy programme even smaller?

CIPP's programme goal

Build more inclusive ICT decision-making processes by facilitating civil society engagement through the improvement of its participants' capacity and supporting advocacy, at national and international levels. Civil society inclusion in policy-making will lead to their involvement in implementing and monitoring policies, and ultimately to societies in which there is greater citizen participation.

Policy programme staff in 2005. Members organisations and other staff are also key to our policy work. Photo: APC

Holistic approach to ICT policy challenges centralism

Part of the reason is to approach ICT policy holistically. APC wants to ensure that policy is not simply handed down from the dominant policy centres in Washington DC or the European Union. We want to learn from what stakeholders with *real* experience of ICT policy formation and

implementation either regionally or in their own countries are doing, and apply that learning to policy developments in each space.

Another reason is that in an era of the rapid growth of the internet and broadband networks, in an era of globalisation, ICT policy cannot be coherently addressed in any one policy space without reference to what is happening in other spaces. Governments and international organisations within the UN system traverse all three spaces. So does the private sector through its International Chamber of Commerce. CSOs have only recently begun to do the same.

Global policy spaces

APC was active in the UN-coordinated World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), a process that started for APC in 2001 and which culminated in Tunis in November 2005 with the unanimous adoption of the Tunis Commitment[6] and Agenda[7] on the Information Society by all 191 UN member states.

WSIS: The first UN conference in which all stakeholders were involved

APC supported the interventions of civil society organisations, making a material difference to the outcomes of WSIS in Tunis by enriching the debate[8] thanks to civil society's specific expertise and experience in ICTs. The greater involvement of CSOs and other non-state actors may have stemmed from the specialised technical nature of the WSIS, and does not necessarily create a precedent for other UN processes. Nonetheless, a step has been taken in changing the nature of the intergovernmental process. We believe other global public policy spaces that require the full involvement of non-state actors in order to shape policy environments which benefit *all* could do well to follow the model.

Prior to WSIS, UN summits were largely closed spaces for intergovernmental debate and negotiation on issues of global public policy, such as sustainable development or gender policy. Civil society summits ran in parallel to those of government, at venues usually miles away from the government deliberations. In WSIS, there was a certain recognition that, where the information society was concerned, governments were just one of the stakeholders.

The history of the internet as a grand collaboration between technical communities, the private sector, civil society organisations and governments meant governments *needed* the participation of all stakeholders in the process of deliberation at the WSIS.

So the WSIS process became the first UN conference in which all stakeholders were involved—until the point of negotiations, which remained the prerogative of governments. The private sector and civil society were nevertheless able to make statements to the plenary meetings of government, while they were negotiating the

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[6] http://www.itu.int/wsis/documents/doc_multi.asp?lang=en&id=2266|0
[7] http://www.itu.int/wsis/documents/doc_multi.asp?lang=en&id=2267|0
[8] Two examples worth noting are the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) process and outcomes, and the recognition given to human rights in formal Summit documents and media coverage of the Tunis Summit, held in November 2005.

text for the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis summits. In addition to this, the atypical Summit format of a two-year process, starting in Geneva in 2003 and ending in Tunis in 2005, also created spaces in which civil society could get organised and make a difference.

Internet governance: The creation of a global public policy space of a new kind—open to all stakeholders

A range of civil society organisations and academic institutions took up the issue of internet governance—how the internet is run and will evolve—using as our focal point the internet governance caucus that was affiliated to the civil society process within WSIS, and strong disagreement between governments on internet governance gave civil society an unexpected opportunity to engage more actively in the process.

The key shift was in the establishment of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) as a multi-stakeholder body in which all stakeholders had representation. This created an open space in which all stakeholders had a significant effect on the outcome of the internet governance debate in WSIS. Within the WGIG, private sector and civil society participants—including two APC representatives, APC staff-er Karen Banks and APC council representative Carlos Afonso—were on a par with government participants.

Civil society participation was decisive in three of the four recommendations made to governments by the Working Group on Internet Governance.

The WGIG report[9] released in September made four sets of recommendations—on the need for a forum to discuss broad public policy issues related to the internet, on oversight models for internet governance, on measures to promote development and access to the internet, and on capacity building for "developing countries" to participate more effectively in internet governance.

With the exception of the issue of oversight models, civil society participation was decisive in the other three recommendations.

So the decision in Tunis to establish an Internet Governance Forum[10] (IGF) was primarily the result of civil society's proposing the idea of a multi-stakeholder forum within the WGIG and the fact that the WGIG enabled stakeholders to interact on equal terms. In fact, the issue of a forum became the key point of consensus in an otherwise unremarkable—as regards actual ICT-related outcomes—Tunis summit (it is worth recalling that the idea of a forum had been opposed by the US government and the private sector during the second phase of WSIS until it was clear that it had broad support). After WSIS, the IGF will constitute a global public policy space of a new kind that is open to all stakeholders.

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[9] http://www.itu.int/wsis/documents/doc_multi.asp?lang=en&id=1695|0
[10] http://www.intgovforum.org/

Internet governance: APC's proposals and results

APC circulated a proposal[11] for specific actions to governments in English, French and Spanish prior to the Tunis summit. Some proposals were accepted, others we will continue to work on outside of and beyond the WSIS space. Proposals included:

1. The establishment of an **Internet Governance Forum.** This proposal became reality, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda.

2. The **transformation of ICANN** (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) into a global body with full authority over DNS (Domain Name System) management and an appropriate form of accountability to its stakeholders in government, private sector and civil society. No changes were made to ICANN, but the issue of the oversight was addressed in the Tunis Agenda paragraph 70, in which there was agreement that enhanced cooperation should be undertaken regarding 'the development of globally-applicable principles on public policy issues associated with the coordination and management of critical Internet resources', i.e. the DNS system, root zone file and other functions managed currently by ICANN.

3. The **initiation of a multi-stakeholder convention on internet governance** that will codify the basic rights applicable to the internet, which will be legally binding in international law, with particular emphasis on clauses in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights specifically relevant to the internet, such as the rights of freedom of expression, freedom of association and privacy. There was no agreement on a global convention on the internet and human rights, but human rights values frame the WSIS outcome documents.

4. **Ensuring internet access is universal and affordable**. Part of the IGF's mandate in paragraph 72(e) of the Tunis Agenda is to 'advise all stakeholders in proposing ways and means to accelerate the availability and affordability of the Internet in the developing world'.

5. **Measures to promote capacity building in developing countries** with regard to increasing developing country participation in global public policy forums on internet governance. The IGF's mandate in paragraph 72(h) of the Tunis Agenda includes the requirement to 'contribute to capacity building for Internet governance in developing countries, drawing fully on local sources of knowledge and expertise'.

Issue papers and research: Filling the information gaps

APC looked for gaps where there was little or no research or information available on crucial topics for including developing countries in the information society. We published the findings in our *Issue Papers* series.[12]

As part of our advocacy on ensuring affordable access to the internet, APC commissioned a discussion paper on **interconnection costs**, which was made available in three languages at PrepCom-3 in Geneva in September 2005. The paper, produced by South African Mike Jensen, covered increasing North-South inequities ("paying both ways"), and proposed strategies for minimising the disparities in interconnection rates, accelerating the restructuring of the communications sector, supporting the establishment of national and international internet exchange points (IXPS), and building local demand for national and international backbones.

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[11] http://rights.apc.org/documents/apc_recommendations_ig_EN.pdf
[12] http://rights.apc.org/papers.shtml

Paragraph 50 of the Tunis Agenda supports 'the development of strategies for increasing affordable global connectivity, thereby facilitating improved and equitable access for all'. This includes a focus on interconnection costs and 'setting up regional high-speed Internet backbone networks and the creation of national, sub-regional and regional IXPs'.

APC also commissioned Professor David Souter of Strathclyde University, former chief executive of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO), to research **developing country participation in WSIS**[13] in order to develop recommendations for measures to promote capacity building in developing countries that will increase their participation in global policy forums such as the IGF or the Global Alliance for ICT and Development. Prof. Souter conducted extensive interviews with leading participants in the WSIS process as part of an extensive review of the process over its four-year duration. Seven country case studies are being undertaken—of Ethiopia, Kenya and Nigeria in Africa; Ecuador and Brazil in South America; and Bangladesh and India in Asia. Questionnaires and analysis of WSIS documentation also form part of the research. The research findings and recommendations will be published in 2006.

One of APC's strategic crosscutting themes prioritised by our membership since 2003 is the issue of ICTs and a sustainable environment. In 2005, APC commissioned a paper on **e-waste**.[14]

The paper aimed to raise the profile of e-waste issues in developing countries so that the implications of ICTs for development initiatives can be better understood, particularly in the context of the increasing flow of old technology from developed to developing countries. The focus is from South Africa, which is thought to be at the forefront of waste management in Africa, an assumption that the author questions. Three APC members contributed to the paper and offered e-waste perspectives from the United Kingdom and the Asia-Pacific.

Recycling older computers in South Africa. Photo: Alan Finlay

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[13] http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=3863391
[14] http://rights.apc.org/documents/e-waste_EN.pdf

International coalitions and partnerships

APC continued our work in other global policy spaces, such as the UN ICT Task Force[15] and the Communications Rights in the Information Society (CRIS) Campaign[16]. Anriette Esterhuysen, APC's executive director, chaired the Working Group on ICT Policy and Governance of the UN ICT Task Force, and focused on the issue of the participation of developing countries and CSOs in global policy spaces. APC also participated in the process leading to the founding of Global Alliance on ICT and Development, a multi-stakeholder network that will be launched in Kuala Lumpur in June 2006 and will replace the UN ICT Task Force.

Other WSIS-linked publications included contributed articles to a number of books during 2005

Karen Banks: 'Summitry and strategies. What in the world is going on at the World Summit on the Information Society?' *Index On Censorship.*[17]

Anriette Esterhuysen: 'On the right to development', in MIT publication, *Human Rights in the Global Information Society*.

Anriette Esterhuysen and Natasha Primo contributed articles to GKP publication, *Access, Empowerment & Governance—Creating a World of Equal Opportunities with ICT.* [18]

APC was active in the CRIS Campaign—an international network of communications activists that advocates a human-rights based information society. We co-coordinated CRIS forums at the World Social Forum in Brazil in early 2005 (see photo above), and the forum that was eventually cancelled due to government-led intimidation at the WSIS[19] in Tunisia in November 2005. Karen Banks, APC's WSIS coordinator, worked extensively on the CRIS advocacy toolkit, *Assessing Communication Rights: A Handbook*,[20] which was launched at Tunis. APC coordinated the handbook's translation and publication in three languages.

Bringing the regional to the global level

The Africa, Asia and Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) monitor teams and APC members from the different regions were active in the WSIS process, and brought a regional focus to bear at the

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[15] http://www.unicttaskforce.org
16 http://www.crisinfo.org
17 http://www.eurozine.com/ articles/2005-10-19-banks-en.html
18 http://www.globalknowledge.org/gkps_portal/view_file.cfm?fileid=3502
19 Many international NGOs taking part in the WSIS collectively decided to cancel their activities planned for November 15 at WSIS to make government, private sector and civil society delegates aware of the human rights violations, including beatings of journalists by police and the breaking-up of meetings since November 13. It was also a show of solidarity with all independent NGOs in Tunisia, which have to put up with police repression on a daily basis. Markus Beckedahl interviewed APC's Anriette Esterhuysen on the reasons for the drastic measure. http://www.netzpolitik.org/wp-upload/Interview_with_Anriette.mp3
20 http://www.crisinfo.org/CRAFT

global level. See more in the next section.

Regional policy spaces: Africa and Latin America

APC is active in regional policy spaces in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), South Asia and Europe. Regional policy spaces enable stakeholders to engage in identifying issues of common interest beyond the specific interests of individual states. In Africa, for example, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is promoting an open access approach to the East African Submarine Cable System (EASSy) to ensure that the costs of access to the cable's bandwidth are kept as low as possible. In LAC, states have adopted the eLAC2007 Action Plan to address common interests in ICT policy regionally, such as FOSS, the introduction of digital television, universal access and internet governance.

In 2005, CIPP participated in the South Asia WSIS consultation meeting in Dhaka and the Asia Pacific Regional PrepCom, Tehran, in May, and began developing an Asia ICT policy monitor, but most of our work regionally focused on Africa and LAC.

APC's policy work regionally in Latin America and the Caribbean

In the Latin American region, the LAC ICT Policy Monitor project supports the involvement of civil society organisations in regional and national policy spaces by building capacities to understand and influence ICT policy processes.

The LAC Monitor team participated in the WSIS Regional Conference, held in Rio, 8–10 June 2005, which approved the Latin American regional plan for the information society—eLAC2007. Proposals made by APC members and staff were included in the final eLAC2007 proposal.[21] APC and other civil society groups will monitor how the multi-stakeholder approach is assured in the implementation of the eLAC2007 and will promote a regional debate focusing on universal access policies.

APC regularly translates our Latin American policy coverage into English. We found that well-known international policy analysts were unaware of the eLAC2007 initiative until APCNews reported on it in November.[22]

In 2005, the LAC Monitor was part of a regional team convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to develop guidelines for the formulation of national

[21] http://www.cepal.org/socinfo/elac/

[22] The Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean take on commitments towards the implementation of eLAC2007: http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=2495475

information policies. UNESCO has plans to disseminate the guidelines among LAC governments as a tool to support the shift in the conception of information policies only related to media to a broader policy approach that integrates ICTs and the information society into its formulation and implementation.

Strategies for poverty reduction

The LAC ICT Policy Monitor participated in a regional workshop on ICT strategies for poverty reduction, convened by the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), in La Paz, Bolivia. The LAC Monitor team led the drafting group, which developed the conclusions of the workshop. The conclusions were used by the SDC for a book launched during the WSIS II in Tunis: *Information and Communication Technologies and large-scale poverty reduction: Lessons from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.*[23]

At Latin America's most prestigious regional training for network specialists—WALC—the LAC Monitor team put together a five-day ICT policy training workshop on "Internet and Society" in Merida, Venezuela, 25–29 July 2005. By bringing together people from public institutions, private sector and civil society organisations, the workshop offered a space for planning joint interventions around specific ICT policy issues at national level. People working in similar fields and pursuing similar objectives were able to meet each other and explore collaboration.

The LAC Monitor commissioned research into the analysis of legislation and statutes of internet rights in eleven LAC countries.[24] The different examples available provide excellent background information for those civil society groups preparing to get involved in ICT policy processes.

To help orient our civil society readers in Latin America on major ICT policy issues at stake in the region, in 2005 the LAC Monitor released three thematic newsletters on technological alternatives for rural development, and key updates on the run-up to WSIS and what to expect in the aftermath.

APC's policy work in the Africa region

In Africa in January and August, the Africa ICT Policy Monitor[25] provided a space to support civil

society involvement in global spaces such as the WSIS through running online policy discussions on ICT policy priorities for Africa, internet governance and financing ICTD, as well as contributing to capacity-building workshops at the Regional

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[23] http://162.23.39.120/dezaweb/ressources/resource_en_25250.pdf
[24] http://www.iijlac.org/apc/
[25] http://africa.rights.apc.org

Africa PrepCom, Accra, Ghana, in February 2005.

The Africa ICT Policy Monitor continued its content and information selection and gathering. Following the completion of the revamp of the website in 2004, in 2005 the Africa project team focused on adding content to the website, and from January collected 480 news items (an average of 10 items per week) and 200 resources items (an average of 5 items per week). The content is sourced by monitoring mailing lists, news sources, and through content partnerships, and, as expected, the website usage continued to increase, with an average of 6,300 pages visited each day. The Africa ICT Policy Monitor launched the Francophone Africa ICT Policy Monitor site[26] at WSIS in Tunis in November.

APC participated in OSIWA's "Achieving affordable bandwidth" workshop,[27] held in Senegal in December, which has led to APC's role in supporting a campaign for open and affordable access to the East African Submarine Cable System (EASSy) during 2006,[28] and which has received major attention in the international press.

While much of APC's work in Africa has focused nationally as part of the CATIA process (more in next section), the association also organised a regional ICT policy and advocacy training workshop with local partners in Kinshasa, in February 2005. One of the outcomes of the meeting was the elaboration of a strategic plan for DMTIC (Multi-sector Dynamics for Communication and Information Technologies) —the first Congolese multi-stakeholder alliance working on ICT policy.[29]

National policy spaces

Policy advocacy in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Photo: Alternatives

Through the CATIA programme, APC, as the lead implementer of the CATIA programme's component 1c on African-led advocacy for ICT policy reform, continued supporting five national advocacy processes in Africa. Our CATIA work started in March 2004, and is carried out through supporting existing initiatives and developing the capacity of informed advocacy groups and individuals from the private sector, civil society, and the media.

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[26] http://afrique.droits.apc.org/
[27] http://www.osiwa.org/en/programs/ict/projects/fiberworkshop
[28] http://www.fibreforafrica.net/
[29] http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=4919512

In **Kenya**, the liberalisation of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) is increasing competition in the internet services market, and ISPs are increasing their number of customers and providing an affordable service. The gradual process around FOSS in **Ethiopia** may in the medium to long term have the effect of reducing some of the costs associated with e-government.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo** (DRC), the possibility of developing an open access metropolitan network in Kinshasa in the medium term may have an impact on the high costs of accessing the internet through cyber cafes in Kinshasa. The introduction of a national backbone network may only occur in the medium to long term.

The main lesson emerging from CATIA is that national advocacy is most successful when driven by a multi-stakeholder network.

In **Nigeria**, there is some possibility of community radio regulations being implemented to lower the cost of acquiring a community radio licence. In **Senegal**, greater awareness of the value of ICTs has been raised with the media in order to promote better coverage of ICT policy issues.

So how did the African national advocacy campaigns get on in 2005?

It was really a year of planning and teething problems for the national campaigns, and most results are expected in 2006. However, positive policy and regulatory reform really took off in Kenya.

KICTANet, as a multi-stakeholder advocacy network, undertook a range of inclusive policy debates with the government, private sector, the media and consumers, and collaborated closely with the government in the formulation of the ICT policy which was approved by the Cabinet in January 2006.[30] These include online and face-to-face consultations on the Kenya ICT policy with stakeholders. At the regulatory level, KICTANet advocacy played a direct role in the liberalisation of VoIP by the regulator, Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK).

Three countries formed networks to take their advocacy process forward—KICTANet in Kenya, EFOSSNet in Ethiopia, and DMTIC in DRC. KICTANet has created a replicable model of a multi-stakeholder advocacy network, which included participation of the private sector (ISPs), civil society organisations and consumer groups, and the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Information and Communications. The main lesson emerging from the CATIA programme is that national advocacy is most successful when driven by a multi-stakeholder network.

Kenyan CATIA animator Alice Wanjira Gitau had strongly criticised Kenya's previous ICT policy processes for ignoring the voices of people outside government. "Civil society organisations made sure that issues of universal access/last mile, consumer rights, and non-market interventions have been addressed. The KICTANet Civil Society Caucus also ensured that they were included as important partners in development of ICTs."

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[30] http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=3870218

National advocacy in Latin America and Asia

The LAC Monitor ran five ICT policy awareness-raising and training workshops in three provinces of Ecuador within the framework of the Infodesarrollo.ec (developmentinfo.ecuador) network. The workshops provided the participants—from civil society organisations and academia—with a space for getting to grips with the impacts of ICT policy decisions made nationally—crucial when considering that Ecuador has some of the highest internet connection costs in the world. Participants worked on defining strategies and collective proposals, which included the creation of multi-stakeholder mechanisms to fully participate in policy decisions around ICTs at the national and local levels.

In a workshop on ICTs for the development of indigenous people,[31] held in Quito, the LAC Monitor was invited to facilitate the ICT policy-related sessions and look at the cultural diversity aspects of ICT policy. The LAC Monitor was also invited to introduce ICT policy issues to radio techies from Latin American community radios.

In Bangladesh, a national advocacy process on broadband policy to lower the cost of internet connections began, in partnership with BFES, with the aim of reducing poverty as part of APC's work in the Building Communications Opportunities (BCO) alliance. Results are expected in 2006.

Web statistics: APC Latin American and Caribbean ICT Policy Monitor
http://lac.derechos.apc.org

APC Latin American and Caribbean ICT Policy Monitor	Average no. of visitors per day	Average of number of pages viewed per day	Individual visits per month	Pages viewed per month
Dec 2005	672	2,965	20,834	91,922
Nov 2005	891	3,015	26,748	90,452
Oct 2005	925	2,883	28,699	89,381
Sep 2005	917	2,784	27,524	83,541
Aug 2005	591	1,455	18,328	45,110
Jul 2005	595	2,334	18,452	72,356
Jun 2005	468	1,374	14,053	41,237
May 2005	749	2,890	23,230	89,594
Apr 2005	963	3,992	28,899	119,768
Mar 2005	1,082	3,983	28,141	103,576
Feb 2005	627	1,903	16,950	51,397
Jan 2005	429	1,413	13,327	43,809
TOTALS FOR 2005	**(Average) 742**	**(Average) 2,583**	**265,185**	**922,143**

Web statistics: Africa ICT Policy Monitor
http://africa.rights.apc.org

Started in 2001, the Africa policy monitor remains a central point for accessing information and news on ICT policy in Africa. CSOs have found the site a useful resource, and the content has been widely used to support advocacy and campaigning activities.

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[31] 7- 11 November 2005 http://nuevared.org/tallerindigena

APC Africa ICT Policy Monitor http://africa.rights.apc.org	Average number of visitors per day	Average number of pages viewed per day	Individual visits per month	Pages viewed per month
Dec 2005	700	9,527	21,703	295,344
Nov 2005	753	9,512	22,605	285,366
Oct 2005	815	7,039	25,289	218,229
Sep 2005	731	3,504	21,941	238,115
Aug 2005	523	3,504	16,221	108,640
Jul 2005	452	3,098	14,017	96,041
Jun 2005	339	2,968	10,186	89,049
May 2005	658	7,782	20,422	241,270
Apr 2005	660	9,233	19,824	277,011
Mar 2005	697	8,781	21,622	272,222
Feb 2005	578	5,592	16,187	156,586
Jan 2005	530	5,059	16,432	156,839
TOTALS FOR 2005	**(Average) 620**	**(Average) 6,300**	**226,449**	**2,434,712**

STRATEGIC USE AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (SU&CB)

What does "strategic use of ICTs" mean for CSOs? Strategic use is not technology-driven; it requires a deep understanding of the context in which the technology is being deployed.

It means ensuring that tools and technologies that can support CSOs in meeting their strategic objectives (or mission) exist and are available and accessible. Availability and accessibility covers a range of factors, such as infrastructure, cost, intellectual property dispensations, and adherence to standards. Strategic use also requires that CSOs are aware of the range of technology options available and have the skills and knowledge to use them effectively and securely, and that they understand their own organisational context and needs.

SU&CB's Programme Goal

Enable CSOs to make use of ICTs in ways that integrate well with their goals and needs, and harness the potential for collaboration and change that can come from working in a networked environment. APC believes CSOs can become more than consumers of ICTs– they can shape technologies, applications and solutions, and facilitate ICT developments that respond to needs of people who are not considered part of a significant market.

The strategic use and capacity building programme aims to address all these elements at some level.

- *Tools and technologies*: SU&CB is not a software-development programme. However, we do engage in projects where a particular need exists that can be addressed through the expertise of the APC network. Examples of this are the ActionKit campaigning toolkit and the ActionApps content-management system (conceptualised in 1999).

- *Availability and accessibility*: SU&CB's focus in this area lies with promoting and supporting free and open source software (FOSS) and other low-cost computing and connectivity options, such as wireless technologies and refurbished computers, and also promoting the use of Creative Commons licences for training materials.

- *Skills and awareness*: SU&CB has a strong focus on developing capacity through training and the development of learning and information resources. ICTs are constantly evolving, and it is

difficult for individual CSOs to keep abreast of development, assess the value of new tools for their organisations, and develop the skills and knowledge required to deploy them effectively. With expertise straddling both technology and teaching and learning methodologies, experience in diverse civil society and development contexts, and working with local, regional and international partners, SU&CB can help CSOs navigate the complex and ever-changing ICT terrain. APC believes that in order to increase the reach and impact of training and to secure a higher return on investment, training should result in the use of high-quality *reusable* materials that can be made freely available to other trainers under an open content licence.

- *Understanding organisational context and needs*: The concept of strategic technology planning is a key element of our approach to capacity building: clarifying objectives - identifying needs, and making informed decisions about the implementation of technologies.

Training East African technicians to set up wireless internet connections in their communities in early 2005.
Photo: Rana Ghose

Secure Online Communications

As CSOs around the world make increasing use of online technologies, there is a corresponding increase in the need for skills, knowledge and tools to ensure that the use of ICTs is both effective and *secure.* As CSOs become more dependent on ICTs in their work, they are at their most vulnerable. This vulnerability can become a matter of life or death in the case of CSOs operating in high-risk contexts such as repressive political conditions and situations of conflict. Threats range from the general—such as vulnerability to malware and data loss due to poor "computer housekeeping"—to direct surveillance.

In 2005, SU&CB joined with APC members from the Philippines and South Africa—Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA), WomensHub and Ungana-Afrika—to present a train-the-trainer course in Manila for participants from South and South-East Asia. This programme was intended to raise technology trainers' awareness of Secure Online Communications (SOC)-related issues and tools (in general and in high-risk contexts), develop/upgrade technology trainers' skills in SOC-related tools, and also develop technology trainers' skills in curriculum development and effective training around all aspects of SOC.

Capacity Building for Community Wireless Connectivity in Africa

APC's "Capacity Building for Community Wireless Connectivity in Africa" project gathered momentum during 2005. This partnership project[32] is building wireless-related skills and awareness across Africa by providing face-to-face training, disseminating tools and information resources, and facilitating the sharing of local knowledge around wireless technologies.

Wireless technologies offer developing countries the possibility of a low-cost and dynamic complement to wired infrastructure. Open wireless standards are not only bringing new technical opportunities at very low cost, but also bringing the decentralised internet model to an area that has been restricted to traditional telecommunication operators. In order for the promise of wireless to be fulfilled, interventions are needed at a number of levels, ranging from policy, to technical development, to capacity building.

Training Southern African technicians to set up wireless internet connections later in 2005. Photo: APC

The project has four broad interrelated components: materials development, pilot face-to-face workshops, the development and maintenance of a distributed knowledge base on wireless for ICT4D, and the building of partnerships and knowledge networks. The primary target audience are potential "champions"—those who as technical implementers, managers and trainers will be able to apply and share the skills and knowledge acquired.

2005 saw regional training workshops in East and Southern Africa, a series of presentations at the second phase of WSIS in Tunis, November 2005, the release of fifteen training units on wireless topics[33] ranging from technical skills to budgeting and planning for a wireless network, and the development of an ItrainOnline section on wireless connectivity.[34]

Demand for the training workshops has by far exceeded expectations and availability of places—an indicator of the growing awareness among community organisations of the potential of wireless communications. Drawing on the extensive collective experience of the implementing partners in community wireless project implementation and capacity building, the Africa wireless project is helping to turn potential into reality.

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[32] Partners: APC, wire.less.dk, Alberto Escudero Pascual, Kyle Johnston, Bruno Roger, CUWiN.

[33] http://www.itrainonline.org/itrainonline/mmtk/wireless.shtml

[34] http://www.itrainonline.org/itrainonline/english/wireless.shtml

The APC communications prizes

For the first time in 2004–05, the APC prizes tackled the theme of economic development and ICTs. Both the Hafkin 2004–05 and Betinho 2005 prizes used the theme of "community connectivity for economic development". The GKP/APC WNSP Gender and ICT Awards in 2005 also focused on this theme.[37]

APC awarded the APC Africa Hafkin Communications Prize for 2004–05 to the Global Education Partnership—Wundanyi in Kenya,[35] and telecentre projects from Brazil and Chile emerged as joint winners of the APC Betinho Communications Prize 2005[36].

The APC prizes focus on *small* and *medium-size* initiatives, and could be considered insignificant if we consider the current plethora of international prizes offered for ICTs—most offering very large prizes and appearing to attract larger-scale projects. So in 2005 we investigated the *medium-term*

impact of the prizes for prize-winners and finalists. We contacted the 12 Betinho prize finalists from 2003.[38] Half of the finalists responded. We concluded that the benefits related to the finalists who responded were varied, but the majority were very positive.

Erica Laurence (left) of the Chilean 2005 Betinho Prize winner travels around training other telecentre coordinators in how to install and encourage the uptake of free software. Photo: FLACSO Chile Programa Redes

In 2003, the decision to divide what is already a small prize ($7,500) into three was a concern for APC. However, we were encouraged by the comments of two of the winners who both mentioned the profound impact that even a small amount of money can have where there have previously been very few or no financial resources. Tiflolibros (e-library for the visually impaired—winners from Argentina) commented that the prize money was the first "significant-sized income" that they had obtained, and it had allowed them to put in place the organisational structure that they had been planning.

Tiflolibros experienced significant community impact in both the short and medium term. The group used the prize money to move from a volunteer-based coalition to a structured organisation with some paid staff, multiplying capacity greatly. The publicity led to a flood of new volunteers, including volunteers from abroad. Users have jumped from 850 to more than 2,000.

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[35] http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=33335

[36] http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=3029730

[37] http://www.genderawards.net/winners/2005/GICT_2005.pdf

[38] http://www.apc.org/english/betinho/2003/

In 2005, we have uncovered an important finding: for a group that was not finding support in their traditional networks, the validation the prize has given them has meant that, in the face of adversity, they have continued to work to sustain their virtual community and project. We learnt that since 2003 one of the finalists had been facing serious organisational issues, including lack of resources, staff and conflicting priorities. In their communication to APC, they characterise the value of the prize as "not just applicable in times of success". They are convinced that technology should be used for social change, and throughout their challenges, the Betinho Prize has become "a key reference point" for their organisation. As a consequence, despite the current scepticism of donors in their field regarding the impact of online resources or networks, the Betinho finalist had chosen to maintain their website and other online activities, in the belief that eventually the sceptics will be proved wrong. They told us categorically, "being a finalist in the Betinho Prize was an important incentive to our continuing in this line (working online)".

In 2003, all the winners received international coverage from APC and beyond. The Tiflolibros initiative particularly appeared to have struck a chord in the mainstream media, and received a huge amount of international and national coverage. In 2005 the Tiflolibros director continued to refer to a "wave of publicity" created by the prize announcement, and said that it "generated a visibility that has made it easy to find material about our work. The press has archive information on Tiflolibros". The APC Betinho Prize gave Tiflolibros an international and national media profile that they continue to exploit two years on.

Graduate from the "Global Education Partnership - Wundanyi" in Kenya – winner of the 2004-5 Hafkin Prize. "A clear lesson is that entrepreneurs are difficult -if not impossible- to create but they can be identified and supported," GEP told APC. Like other prize-winners, GEP's success was picked up and retold in major newspapers at home and abroad. Photo: GEP

ItrainOnline

ItrainOnline is a partnership initiative[39] of eight organisations with particular experience of capacity building in development contexts. ItrainOnline currently has two main thrusts.

➢ *The ItrainOnline portal* is a gateway to a wealth of online resources to help development and civil society organisations use ICTs effectively.
➢ *The ItrainOnline Multimedia Training Kit* (MMTK) is a collection of workshop kits to help trainers working with telecentres, NGOs, community media organisations and the development sector to present effective training courses on a wide range of ICTs and non-ICT topics.

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[39] Current ItrainOnline partners are APC, Bellanet, FAO, International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD), International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), OneWorld.net, Telecentre.org and UNESCO.

From the *learner's* perspective, strong written materials help the learner review and test skills and knowledge acquired during face-to-face training, and offer a starting point for further skills development. It also provides them with materials to share with colleagues, promoting the multiplier effect of the training.

From the *trainer's* perspective, a bank of written materials reduces the need to develop training materials from scratch for each training course and topic. It also allows trainers to be more flexible during the training course itself, by quickly slotting in additional topics where needed, or referring learners to handouts rather than presenting full sessions where the time could be used more effectively for another activity.

Making the materials freely available online (in this case, under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike licence) extends their reach and increases the return on investment in training. Trainers not directly connected with the project are able to benefit from the expertise and experience of a wider pool of subject experts.

The ItrainOnline MMTK approach attempts to separate generic skills and information from the contextual (region, language, type of audience, type of training, tools, pedagogical approach) to promote flexibility and ease of reuse and repackaging.

Modularisation facilitates:

-"Mixing and matching" of content
-Updating of content
-Translation and localisation (because content is "chunked", it is easier to translate only small, directly relevant sections of materials)
-Adaptation (for example, through the addition of local case studies, or exercises for use with different types of group)—as well as the contribution of these adaptations back into the pool.

In addition to benefits such as reusability, adaptability and reduced duplication of effort, the format also promotes good training practice. Providing trainers with models of the core elements of an effective training programme helps to form good training habits.

2005 saw the first materials in French released, and the swelling of the collection overall. By the end of the year, the collection boasted more than a hundred units in English, French and Russian, with topics ranging from producing content for radio to choosing open source software.

ItrainOnline MMTK evaluation: MMTK "Meeting Unmet Need"

The first major evaluation of the ItrainOnline MMTK initiative was undertaken by UNESCO in 2005.[40] The MMTK, which focuses on the needs of those working in grass-roots communication and information activities, such as those run by Community Multimedia Centres, is "meeting a previously unmet need", according to 87.4 per cent of users questioned. This was just one of the findings of the evaluation carried out by OneWorld.Net, one of the partner organisations of the MMTK initiative.

"Overall, I've found the MMTK CDs to be very useful as they contain tons of user-friendly material that's packaged in formats that allow for the creation of myriad learning environments. Most encouraging is the fact that anyone can build their own capacity as well as run collective workshops", noted Elizabeth Araujo, Training Co-ordinator with Women'sNet, South Africa, in one of the evaluation's case studies.

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[40] http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=19323&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Conducted in the first quarter of 2005, the survey used field research, interviews, questionnaires, an online survey, case studies and web statistics. The production process is "ably coordinated" by APC, said the report.

Before the MMTK initiative began, partners were producing training materials separately and in parallel to each other. Partners said they appreciate the value-adding of a system where each partner's institutional agenda is allied with a collective agenda. Respondents also highlighted the avoidance of duplication as one of the achievements of the partnership.

Free and open source software

APC has long supported the ideals of the free and open source software movement (FOSS). In 2005, SU&CB commissioned a survey of APC members' practice and attitudes around FOSS in order to lay the groundwork for future activities. The survey included an audit of members' past and present FOSS activities, and an assessment of their attitudes to FOSS, and their experiences and challenges in implementing FOSS.

ActionApps and ActionKit

The internet is now well established as a tool to support campaigning and advocacy; the use of information communications technologies can streamline the coordination of campaigns, extend participation and collaboration, and facilitate campaign monitoring and evaluation. Many of the individual tools needed for online advocacy and campaigning are also widely available. To be truly effective and easy-to-use, however, an *integrated* toolset aimed at the particular needs of civil society campaigning is needed.

Planning started in earnest in 2005 on the "ActionKit", a Drupal-based toolkit, to address just these needs. The ActionKit project has also provided an opportunity to breathe new life into ActionApps, APC's open source content management system (CMS).

FOSS survey findings: many APC members practise what they preach

The APC survey found that for members:

➢ FOSS-related activities did not depend on members having formal organisational policies. While just under a third of respondents did indeed have such policies, around three-quarters were using FOSS-based servers or desktop systems in practice.

➢ FOSS training was a major component of FOSS-related activities, though funding support for these initiatives has been an issue.

➢ Technical support for FOSS is still a challenge for many members, but the sharing of experiences between members has been a valuable source of support.

➢ About two-thirds of all respondents indicated that FOSS was important or very important to their organisation's core objectives; about one-third indicated that they were unsure of this relationship, or rejected it.

➢ Two-thirds believed that FOSS use should be developed as local public policy.

Work on ActionApps started in 1999 in response to a need in the CSO sector for tools to support automated web publishing and share information across web sites. Six years on, with a wealth of mature open source CMSs for CSOs to choose from, what is the status and the future of ActionApps?

IFIwatchnet

ActionApps continues to drive many sites inside and outside the APC network (including IFIwatchnet.org, a watchdog monitoring the World Bank, the IMF and regional development banks) and this is expected to continue. ActionApps' value is not just as a "legacy system", however. Its unique attractions lie with the shared databases, ability to display the same content in multiple sites, and ability to plug sections of content into existing sites that it offers.

Part of the ActionKit project is looking at how ActionApps can share content with *other* content management systems, which will help strengthen the tool as it seeks to establish a new niche in the evolving CMS terrain.

WOMEN'S NETWORKING SUPPORT PROGRAMME (APC WNSP)

Over the past few years, APC has become known internationally for our commitment and work in gender equality and women's empowerment in ICTs. APC's strategic priorities are grounded in the belief that ICTs and the internet can play a crucial role in changing women's conditions of inequality in the home, in communities and the broader society.

APC WNSP's Goal

To promote gender equality and women's empowerment through gender and ICT advocacy at all levels and the strategic use of applications and tools by women's movements to strengthen their networking.

Efforts in 2005 focused on expanding our gender work in national ICT policy processes and within the broader ICT-for-development community, and consolidating our women's networking initiatives at global and regional levels.

The APC WNSP network straddles two constituencies—the women's movement and the ICT-for-development community. Both can have significant impact on women's lives. In 2005, we worked to provide support for individual women technicians and ICT trainers, expand women's networks, and build women's capacities for their various advocacies. Within the ICT-for-development community, our aim was to build on the growing acceptance of gender as a critical and crosscutting concern, mindful of its need for tools and resources in gender analysis and advocacy.

The Gender and ICT policy monitor, GenderIT.org, quickly became a focal point for gender and ICT policy advocacy, and is generating new content and analysis in this field. APC is at the forefront of innovative research on various dimensions of empowerment, gender and ICT through the continuing application of the *Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) for Internet and ICT Initiatives* in many countries, new research in Africa through the GRACE project, gender assessments of a range of ICT initiatives (including the E-academy of Estonia, the Rural Information System in Indonesia), and putting together a gender framework for the CRIS Campaign.

In the APC community, women participants took part in all of APC's capacity-building activities, including those with a heavy technical focus, such as wireless networking, online security and free software development.

Gender and ICT Policy Advocacy

Advocacy for integrating gender in ICT policy remained of critical importance for the APC WNSP in 2005. The momentum achieved particularly at the WSIS, augured well for more active global and national policy processes.

But we were only too aware that the momentum needed to be harnessed into *actions* if there were to be any transformation in current policy regimes. In response, the APC WNSP launched GenderIT.org, commissioned issue papers to provoke reflection and increase knowledge of key areas, and drew links between ICT policy and gender for women attending major feminist and social movement events.

What's needed to move from good intentions to real social change?

- Build capacity for gender and ICT advocacy at the local (national) level to advocate for gender and ICT issues
- Support, strengthen and diversify the global gender and ICT advocacy movement for continued engagement in regional and international policy processes
- Form partnerships at different levels with the broader women's and social movements, with donor partners, national machineries and international agencies with a view to developing a cohesive gender and ICT agenda that can be advocated at national, regional and international levels
- Create greater understanding and take-up of the gender and ICT agenda amongst civil society actors
- Widen the discourse on the links between poverty alleviation, gender equality, women's empowerment and ICTs.

GenderIT.org

The Gender and ICT policy monitor—launched as GenderIT.org—provides women's rights activists, policymakers and ICT4D activists with practical tools and guidelines, as well as with gender analysis of existing ICT policy frameworks. Building from the models of the existing APC global, African, and Latin American and Caribbean ICT policy monitors, GenderIT.org sought to unpack ICT policy implications regarding the central issues of women's movements: violence against women, economic empowerment, health and citizenry.

Karen Banks, APC advocacy coordinator, and Chat Garcia Ramilo, APC WNSP manager, at the launch of GenderIT.org. Photo: APC WNSP

The monitor was launched with a series of panel discussions entitled "What's gender got to do with IT?", hosted by APC WNSP during the 10-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) at the UN Commission on the Status of Women Meeting, held in New York on 7 March 2005.[41]

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[41] http://www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?w=a&x=91220

APC WNSP has grown out of local and regional work on the ground, and we felt that in order to be relevant to national processes, GenderIT.org should offer a special regional and local focus. "The scarcity of information available on how ICTs impact on women and the issues women's groups consider critical—for good and for bad—in most regions but especially in Latin America, Africa and Central and Eastern Europe was shocking," said GenderIT.org editor, Katerina Fialova. "So we hired editors living in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America who write for GenderIT.org every month."

"The scarcity of information on how ICTs impact on critical women's issues in Latin America, Africa and Central and Eastern Europe was shocking," said GenderIT.org editor, Katerina Fialova, pictured right in a GenderIT planning session. To combat this, editors living in those regions write for GenderIT.org every month. Photo: APC

Consequently, a major priority for GenderIT.org's team during 2005 was content production. The monitor's archive continues to grow and now has more than 500 resources. Between its launch in March and December 2005, GenderIT.org published fifty-one analytical articles[42] and blog posts.[43] The majority of them evaluated the gender sensitivity of national policy processes, gender and ICT policy advocacy, and global governance—information gaps in gender and ICT previously identified by the APC WNSP.

The APC WNSP team received numerous invitations to present GenderIT.org at civil society events, e.g. Women Claiming the Information Society (Berlin, September 2005),[45] Association of Women's Rights in Development (AWID) 10th International Forum (Bangkok, October 2005),[46] and First Annual Women and ICT Creating Global Transformation Symposium (Baltimore, June 2005).[47] More women's organisations and policymakers found out about the monitor, and APC WNSP has found new partnerships and alliances with other ICT4D and women's groups.

"We need to capitalize on the APC WNSP example of the development of Gender and ICT policy monitor" — Sharon Bhagwan Rolls in her presentation on ICTs and women's empowerment in Fiji[44] during the seminar "Mapping Gender in the Information Society from Reality to Discourse", Bangkok, Thailand.

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[42] http://www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?apc=---e--1&w=a&y=-

[43] http://www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?apc=f--e--1

[44] http://itforchange.net/images/stories/sharon%20bhagwan%20rolls%20.pdf

[45] http://www.boell.de/de/04_thema/3523.html

[46] http://www.awid.org/forum/plenary_reports.htm and www.apcwomen.org/awid05/

[47] http://www.wtci.org/CWIT/WomenandICT_CreatingGlobalTransformation.htm

Gender Advocacy in WSIS II Process

The APC WNSP joined other gender advocates and kept the gender agenda alive in the second phase of WSIS.

This involved keeping track of governments' commitments to the gender equality principles, and actions for empowering women agreed on in the first phase of WSIS. We participated in the various WSIS preparatory meetings, lobbied all stakeholders to actively support gender advocacy, created visibility for gender concerns through coverage of issues in GenderIT.org, and organised activities that highlighted women's continuing interest in being equal partners in the evolution of the information society.

In addition, APC WNSP members also worked in solidarity against serious attacks on the freedom of expression, thoughts and associations of local CSOs in countries where WSIS events took place, notably in Iran[48] and Tunisia, where the APC WNSP cancelled the GEM book launch in solidarity with Tunisian civil society.[49]

At WSIS PrepCom 3, APC WNSP organised a parallel event—"Gender and Internet Governance at WSIS". The objective of the event was to create space for discussion on the report of the WSIS Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG). It brought together women active in the WSIS process from civil society and interested governments, UN agencies, with gender and ICT advocates from women's organisations.[50]

GenderIT.org writers monitored the WSIS II process and wrote for women's movements about the two issues receiving most attention on the official agenda—financing and internet governance. Feminist Talk, GenderIT.org's blogging space, became the portal's most popular feature. The accompanying

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What people have to say about GenderIT.org

"GenderIT.org is a critical and unique tool to build our technological literacy, so that staff and partners have easy access to resources that help us to understand the issues related to access content and policy. This is particularly timely in the lead up to the World Summit on the Information Society, where we need to secure a clear and unswerving commitment to incorporating women's interests and perspectives in ICT policy-making." — *Deputy Director Joanne Sandler at UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women)*

"GenderIT.org is crucial in getting women at the table in any discussion on ICT policy-making. ... I hope actors in the women's movement, in the broader social movements, and policymakers at all levels access this website as that could lead to better dialogues and consequently better understanding of the gender issues in ICTs." — *Mavic Cabrera Balleza of the International Women's Tribune Centre*

"Engendering policy is a hard enough task... The ICT-gender combination makes advocacy in developing countries that much harder... you need to address multiple audiences and also tailor communication to specific audiences. GenderIT.org is a wonderful resource that addresses these needs and provides ammunition to gender advocates like me." — *Anita Gurumurthy, ITforChange.net*

"GenderIT.org provides us women activists and organisers with an in-depth analysis of the current ICT policies towards women globally, presents voices and concerns of women from all around the world and gives us a platform for discussing our concerns. It is a new space for those who want to overcome the digital divide between women and men." — *Malgorzata Tarasiewicz, Director of the Network of East-West Women, Poland*

Keeping gender on the agenda

APC WNSP members participated in regional events in Bangalore, Dhaka, Rio de Janeiro, Costa Rica, Tehran, Bangkok and Berlin to produce documents and declarations and intervene in panels and sessions, together with other women's and civil society organisations. This participation was a key factor in getting some gender recognition in official documents.

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[48] e.g. Regional Civil Society Forum on the Information Society for the Middle East and West Asia unexpectedly banned by government authorities: http://www.hrinfo.net/en/reports/2005/pr0825.shtml
[49] http://blog.apc.org/index.shtml?x=2466150
[50] http://www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?apc=f--e--1&x=91676

newsletter, "Gender Peripheries at WSIS", circulated widely in the ICT4D and women's movements, and people were drawn by bloggers' entries, which at times reflected perplexity, rage, admiration, and always the very latest news about the Summit.

Global lessons for local advocacy

Policy-making at the national level is very affected by global and regional processes, and it's critical to translate global and regional learning into national learning. In the follow-up to the WSIS, a strong focus on incorporating gender perspectives into ICT policy processes at national level has become one of APC WNSP's priorities.

If more women are to get involved in ICT policymaking at the national level, the implications of ICT policies for issues that concern these women in their local context need to be demonstrated. So we looked at localisation, along with new approaches such as popular education and hands-on training. We took lessons we had learned in UN halls and international conventions and applied them in several national level policy studies and capacity building for national policymakers.

APC WNSP was commissioned by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women to train National Women's Machineries in five African regions, to deepen their understanding of gender and ICT policy issues and develop their ICT skills. This capacity-building process, which started in 2004 and was completed in 2005, was carried out in conjunction with South African APC member Women'sNet.[51]

APC WNSP also conducted a gender study that included policy implications for the World Bank on *Engendering Rural Information Systems in Indonesia*. To consolidate lessons in effective integration of gender into national ICT policy processes, APC is working with APC member Women in Uganda Network in an advocacy project on gender and national IT policies in Uganda. A report coming out of this project is expected in 2006.

Making ICTs a women's rights issue

In 1995, WNSP led advocacy for including ICTs in the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) at the World Conference on Women. Ten years on, WNSP continued its advocacy within the global women's movement by highlighting an expanded agenda of gender, women's empowerment and ICTs in Beijing+10, the ten-year review of the implementation of the BPFA.[52]

APC WNSP members participated in regional Beijing+10 reviews, covering events and drafting language around communications and ICTs in Asia-Pacific and Europe.[53] At the global Beijing+10 review at the Commission for the Status on Women (CSW), held in March 2005 in New York, APC

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[51] http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/meetings/workshop/natmach- ict04/namibia-apr04.htm for initial workshop results
[52] http://www.apcwomen.org/b10
[53] "Media and ICT Caucus Statement at the Asia Pacific High-level Meeting on Beijing +10": www.apcwomen.org/news/index.shtml?x=73487

WNSP called attention to the interconnections of ICTs to violence against women and trafficking of persons for sexual exploitation. We also took part in the Women's Media Pool[54] coordinated by Radio Fire during CSW, with articles and documents widely distributed in journalist and media networks around the world.

Feminists from 120 countries debated how change happens at the AWID conference in Bangkok. APC WNSP blogged the issues at every opportunity including from the hallways. Photo: Cheekay Cinco.

Aside from the Beijing+10 review, the APC WNSP brought ICTs closer to the women's movement through our participation in two feminist gatherings. APC WNSP members from all over the world attended the Association of Women in Development (AWID) 10th Forum: How Does Change Happen?[55] with APC WNSP members blogging about the experience of being in Bangkok debating change with feminists from 120 countries. During the 10th Feminist Encounter, held in Serra Negra, Sao Paolo, Brazil, in October, APC WNSP members from Latin America organised a gender and ICT workshop.[56]

Gender and ICT policy issue papers

Using the internet for human trafficking, the proliferation of pornography online, and the use of ICTs to reduce poverty

Digital Dangers: ICTs and Trafficking in Women[57]

The word 'trafficking' suggests something very physical. But does it always have to be so? A 19-year-old is filmed by her 30-year-old lover while they have sex. They break up, and years later, without her consent, the video hits the internet. Suddenly, the woman's image is crossing the world, making some people a lot of money in the process too. Is this trafficking? The woman herself hasn't been transported across any international boundaries. But her image has.

This joint publication from AWID and APC WNSP is an informative backgrounder to the modern dimensions of a global issue of widespread concern, available in English, Spanish and French.

In 2005, APC WNSP developed three issue papers to open up discussion and deepen research on critical gender and ICT issues—violence against women online, ICTs and trafficking in women, and poverty reduction. They were very effective in demonstrating why women's organisations should look at ICTs, and why gender matters in ICT policy development.

Each of the papers not only provides analysis but also exposed organisations to a learning process through online discussions, presentations, workshops, and other events organised by APC WNSP in cooperation with partners. In this way, the papers helped build the capacity of women's rights movements to make ICT policy interventions, and their in-depth analysis strengthened lobbying, offering a basis for lobbying documents and declarations.[58]

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[54] http://www.womensmediapool.org
[55] www.apcwomen.org/awid05/ and http://www.awid.org/forum/plenary_reports.htm
[56] http://www.apcwomen.org/news/index.shtml?x=91892
[57] http://www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?w=r&x=91637 [English], http://www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?w=r&x=91632 [Spanish], http://www.awid.org/publications/OccasionalPapers/spotlight6_fr.pdf [French]
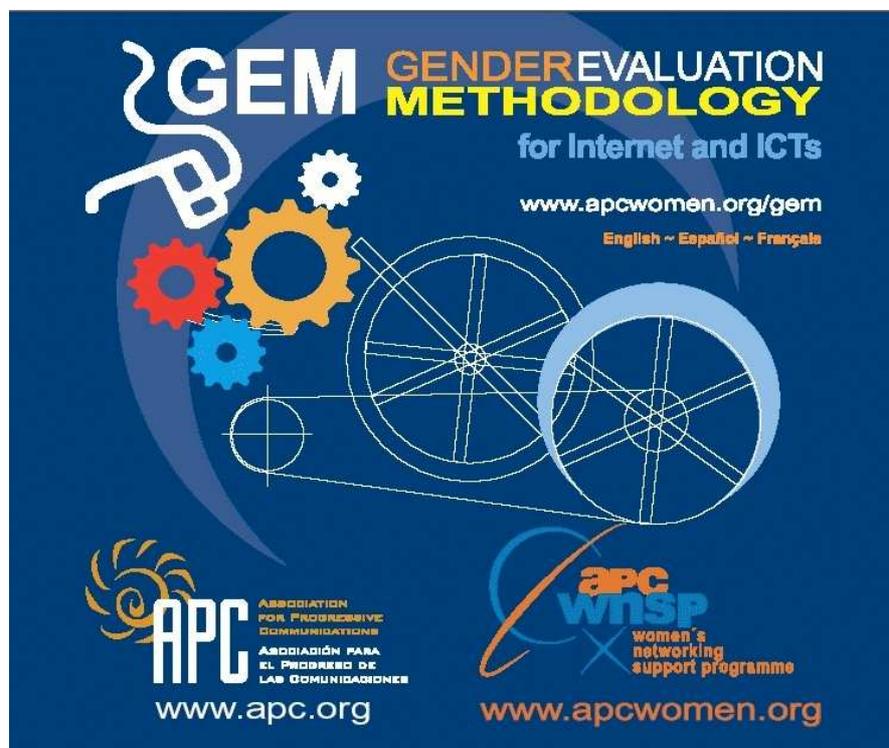
During 2005, the papers were presented in major ICT policy and feminist events.

Gender Evaluation Methodology for ICT Initiatives (GEM)

The Gender Evaluation Methodology produced by APC WNSP is an evaluation tool intended for initiatives that use ICTs for social change and development.

Over the last four years, APC WNSP generated groundbreaking and innovative material and learning through the evaluation of 32 ICT projects spread over 25 countries in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America. The findings of these evaluations yielded valuable evidence about how ICTs are addressing gender inequalities and contributing to changing women's conditions toward empowerment. The GEM tool provided a much needed evaluation methodology for organisations wanting to learn about how their projects change gender roles and relations in communities, and how these changes affect women's lives.

The results of GEM have been so positive, with workshops, trainings and evaluations taking place all over the world including Cairo,[59] Sarajevo, Costa Rica,[60] Brazil[61] and Vietnam,[62] that partners came forward to offer funding for a second phase of the project for 2006–08.

2005 brought further consolidation of GEM resources and services for the ICT4D community. The GEM tool was fully revised, incorporating feedback from those who have tested the tool in their projects.

The revised GEM was also translated into Spanish and French. All translations are available for download from the GEM site,[63] and an English-language GEM manual and CD were launched at

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58 http://www.boell.de/en/04_thema/3839.html
[59] http://www.apcwomen.org/news/index.shtml?x=91504
[60] http://www.radiofeminista.net/sept05/notas/principal.htm
[61] http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=2264776
[62] http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=2997734
[63] http://www.apcwomen.org/gem

WSIS II in Tunis, with print publications in other languages planned for 2006. A revised Portuguese version is planned for 2006.

The demand for GEM workshops and consultations continues to grow.

In 2005, we provided online support and mentoring visits to a women's crisis centre in Kazakhstan, a pro-youth organisation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and a rural information help line in Bangladesh. We held workshops in Cairo, Costa Rica, Vietnam, and Brazil.

The Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP)—an enthusiastic champion of GEM—required its Seed Grants and Small Initiatives Projects grantees to incorporate gender in their project design and final reports, and GKP asked APC WNSP to assist the ten grantees in using GEM.

As a result, APC WNSP provided online support and mentoring visits to initiatives as diverse as their geographic location, including a women's crisis centre in Kazakhstan, a pro-youth organisation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and a rural information help line in Bangladesh.

As part of the GKP consultancy, APC WNSP conducted a GEM workshop during the GKP annual meeting in May 2005 in Cairo.[64] The workshop provided the thirty participants with the opportunity to exchange experiences, insight and knowledge on gender analysis, gender and ICT issues, gender and ICT indicators, and incorporating evaluation learning in our work. In addition to GKP grantees, participants included members of the Africa Gender Caucus for WSIS, in an effort to deepen their analysis of gender and ICT policy.

Evaluations demonstrated that the participants appreciated and valued the participatory approach of the workshop methodology and facilitation, and appreciated the breadth and depth of experience and knowledge that was found among the participants.

Awarding innovation in gender and ICTs

2005 Gender and ICT Awards

These recognised ICT initiatives that promote women's economic empowerment and development in Asia-Pacific. Initiatives had to demonstrate:
– the use of ICTs to promote women's economic empowerment
– up-scaling of community-centred technologies
– promotion of cooperation and social networking.

The Gender and ICT Awards 2005

In an effort to strengthen innovative and effective projects by women to use ICTs for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, the APC WNSP launched the Gender and ICT Awards in conjunction with the Global Knowledge Partnership. Awards and prizes channel funds and draw attention to the types of ICT initiatives that are needed for social transformation, providing further knowledge and impetus for others to mainstream gender in the field of ICTs for women's empowerment.

In 2003, the Gender and ICT Awards celebrated advocacy, networking and capacity building in local as well as broad multi-stakeholder

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[64] http://www.apcwomen.org/news/index.shtml?x=91504

initiatives worldwide. The 2005 Gender and ICT Awards focused on ICT initiatives that promote women's economic empowerment and development in Asia-Pacific.[65] Economic empowerment was defined as the ability to overcome marginalisation and oppressive social norms, provide choices and opportunities for women, provide strong encouragement for women to fulfil their potential, and enable women to acquire the voice and capability to counter their lack of socio-economic-political power in the community.

The 2005 GICT Awards winner, the Pallitathya Help-Line—a call centre for the poor—operates in rural Bangladesh. Through its mobile operator ladies, it provides information service to women who, due to poverty and the existing social norms, are heavily deprived of information. D.Net, the organisation that launched the Pallitathya Help-Line, used the prize money to publish the findings of the project, which D.Net believes can easily be replicated by other developing countries worldwide.

The two runners-up of equal standing, *Putting ICTs in the Hands of the Poor* of the Seelampur Community ICT centre in India, a partner of the Datamation Foundation Charitable Trust and the eHomemakers network of Malaysia, were awarded $3,000 USD each.

The women of the Seelampur ICT centre come from a Muslim ghetto in rural India. Through the centre's *Putting ICTs in the Hands of the Poor* project, they are trained in using various ICT tools to improve their livelihood skills. Project coordinator Datamation Foundation chose to apply award money to the purchase of fifteen hand-held computers for testing the impact of mobile computing on the lives of the marginalised and disadvantaged women. These were deployed in the field amongst the women for up-scaling the Seelampur initiative.

Through its website, the eHomemakers network of Malaysia build the capacity and capabilities of homemakers to become home-based entrepreneurs. eHomemakers told the APC WNSP that winning the gender and ICT award gave them increased status, allowing for project collaboration both inside and outside of Malaysia. Prize money was employed in revamping the eHomemakers' website.

Through the synergies established during the 2005 GICT Awards, one of the winners, the Datamation Foundation requested the collaboration of APC WNSP to hold a GEM workshop in India

65 The 2005 GICT Awards winners wrote about bagging the awards in their websites:
D.Net-Development Research Network http://www.dnet-bangladesh.org/achievements.html
Datamation Foundation Charitable Trust http://www.datamationfoundation.org
eHomemakers Network http://www.ehomemakers.net/en/aboutus.php?id=39

in April 2006. D.Net has already applied the GEM tool to do an initial evaluation of the Pallitathya Help-Line, and have been so satisfied with the insight emerging from the application of GEM that they have used it for future project planning.

The Gender and ICT award ceremony (see photo, previous page)[66] featured a knowledge-sharing session where the winners and guests deliberated the issue, "Can ICTs Really Help in Women's Economic Empowerment?" To deepen debate, a media brief entitled *Paddling in Circles while the Waters Rise: Gender Issues in ICTs and Poverty Reduction*,[67] a condensed version of the APC WNSP issue paper on poverty reduction and ICTs, was published. Winners shared their projects' history and first-hand experiences.

Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development in the Information Society (GenARDIS)

The GenARDIS Small Grants Fund[68] was initiated in 2002 to support work on gender-related issues in ICTs for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) agricultural and rural development. It recognises the constraints and challenges encountered by rural women particularly—challenges which include cultural factors that hinder women's access to ICTs, limited time availability to participate in training and use of ICTs, minimal access to technology such as radios, mobile telephones or computers, and inadequate availability of information in local languages that is relevant to local contexts.

GenARDIS grantee readying the herb bundles she sells at market. She can get better prices for her crop using cellphones. Photo: GenARDIS

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[66] http://www.genderawards.net/winners/winners.htm
[67] http://www.genderawards.net/the_awards/2005a/mediabrief.htm
[68] http://www.apcwomen.org/genardis

The fund is supported by four international organisations and administered by APC. In 2005, submissions consisted of research programmes, training courses, publications, broadcasts, theatre productions, promotion materials, etc.—whatever need could be addressed by the means available to the many creative grant applicants. All projects focused on innovative use of ICTs by or for rural women to improve the well-being of their families and communities.

Two rounds of grants have been offered since the fund came into being. The response to both rounds has been overwhelming. In 2005, more than 310 submissions were received in a period of two months. This provides a clear indication that there is a real need for support in the field of 'gender and agriculture in the information society'.

Gender Research in Africa into ICTs for Empowerment (GRACE)

GRACE, a project from APC-Africa-Women, started in early 2005 with the aim of exploring the ways in which women in Africa use ICTs to empower themselves, the external, structural barriers as well as the internal factors which prevent them from using ICTs to their advantage, and the strategies they employ to overcome these barriers.

The project comprises fifteen sub-projects, reflecting fourteen research sites in twelve countries and one meta research sub project. Researchers have the opportunities to develop research capacity as well as capacity to use ICTs effectively. The project made provision for intensive training and ongoing mentoring and support, intending to integrate the research and the ICT aspects into a holistic capacity building experience for the participants.

Capacity building and strategic use

In the APC community, APC has ensured women's integration in all of our APC's capacity-building activities, including those with a heavy technical focus such as wireless networking, online security and free software development.

The value of GenARDIS for grantees

"Cell phones are only available to 30 out of every 1000 Basotho. It is a luxury good for poor families. The GenARDIS project will make the cellular phone an indispensable piece of communications equipment between the women in the Eyking project, the officers of the cooperative and the market. Having a phone and controlling it to enhance the profitability of their SMEs will enhance the role of women." — Creating and using a dedicated cellular phone network to add information, value and dignity to the work of women in Lesotho's agricultural sector. Lesotho.

"This prize will enable about 30 women to use the internet, and to be in contact with other women farmers throughout the world. In the future, the activities undertaken as a result of this prize will probably lead to an upheaval in the women's lives. We anticipate greater involvement by these women in the activities of their communities." — Project to strengthen ICT skills of 30 peasant women. Burkina Faso.

"This prize will be of great help to us in building our capacity to promote the rights of women farmers through the demystification of new information and communication technologies and through gender advocacy. This prize will have a real impact on our support activities for women farmers in the sectors of agriculture, breeding, handicrafts, and in helping them to learn about their rights via their literacy efforts. Such capacity building will increase our usefulness to other women, and to our entire community." — Campaign to support and build awareness of rural women of Uvira about the promotion of ICTs for gender advocacy. Democratic Republic of the Congo.

APC WNSP's work in this area is focused on training its members on increased technical skills and in training other women in the use of affordable, appropriate, and innovative tools and applications in order to strengthen their networks and raise the profile of content produced by women.

APC WNSP members participated both as trainers and trainees in the Asia and Africa Source FOSS training camps.[69] APC-Africa-Women gave input in technology planning for South African APC member Women'sNet's FOSS-SADC training. As a result, two APC-Africa-Women members were inspired to start LinuxChix Africa.

APC-Africa-Women are key participants in the APC wireless training in Africa, and APC WNSP's Latin American network sponsored two women technicians to participate in the wireless networking workshop at the Latin American School of Networking (WALC) in Venezuela.[70]

Regional networking support

APC WNSP gender and ICT advocacy, evaluation and capacity-building work is rooted in our regional networks in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe and Latin America. A number of regional highlights have been included in the report above, but a few are shared below.

APC WNSP Europe

In 2005, APC WNSP Central and Eastern Europe became APC WNSP Europe. The decision to integrate Western Europe into the programme's regional activities and change the name was based on a discussion in the regional online space and approved by members. With increased European Union integration, women's rights issues and civil society organisations have new dimensions. There are new directives for gender equality, policies and economic goals, as well as new opportunities for funding. This is also true for countries applying for EU membership.

As co-organisers of the Women Claiming the Information Society (WOCTIS) event,[71] which produced a regional declaration on gender and WSIS for Europe and North America, APC WNSP Europe helped ensure that CEE/CIS (Central and Eastern Europe region and ex-Soviet states) participation and contributions were included on an equal basis.

Asia-Pacific

Members from Asia Pacific WNSP have become a reference point for FOSS and gender, exploring ways to have more women involved in FOSS development, particularly at the Asia Source Camp, where members participated as trainers and as organisers of the gender and FOSS session. WomensHub staff (all of whom are APC WNSP members) also played key roles during the Secure Online Communications Workshop held in Manila.

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[69] http://womensnet.org.za/news.shtml?AA_SL_Session=9af7f0a8947e02b2d0a5704ccda2803e&x=2735
[70] http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=957720
[71] http://www.apcwomen.org/news/index.shtml?x=91700

The regional network was also involved in the gender evaluation of the GKP Seed Grantees for 2005 and using GEM, worked with organisations from Bangladesh, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, and Kazakhstan. This has resulted in longer-term partnerships with a few of the grantees, particularly D.Net in Bangladesh and The Network: Towards Unity for Health[72].

APC-Africa-Women

APC Africa Women hosted their yearly Women's Electronic Network Training (WENT) Africa training,[73] this time with a focus on FOSS, GNU/Linux installation and technology planning. "The growing camaraderie of the workshoppers was clear in the WENT Africa participant blog,[74] open to all for perusal and comment. It features participant interviews and reflections about the workshop. Full of encouraging comments and inside jokes, the blog teases different teams with the nicknames that have emerged: "the hypotheticals", the "e-feminists" and the "e-enabled women".

Women's Electronic Network Training events were initiated by the APC WNSP and other partners in Asia Pacific, and have met with great success in Africa. WENT Africa 2005 was attended by 22 women from twelve African countries, including Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Cameroon, Zambia, Sudan, Cameroon, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ghana and Senegal.

Latin America and the Caribbean

APC WNSP in Latin America worked with a series of partners to make sure that women's issues were raised in regional WSIS agendas, and that information and communication rights formed part

of women's movements radar in 2005. Together with Radio Fire, we convened a workshop on WSIS at the Latin American Encuentro Feminista (Feminist Encounter) in October, born out of interest expressed during the World Social Forum earlier in the year.

Technicians from Mexico and Argentina received a grant to attend Latin America's biggest tech-networking event – WALC. Photo: APC WNSP

As part of the APC WNSP commitment to support women techies and technical training, Maria Cristina Ojeda, from APC member Nodo Tau, and Norma Alegre, from APC WNSP member Modemmujer, participated in the wireless track of WALC2005,[75] the long-running multi-track internet training organised by EsLaRed, a new APC

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[72] http://www.the-networktufh.org

[73] http://www.apcwomen.org/news/index.shtml?x=91921

[74] http://wentafrica.blogspot.com/

[75] http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=957720

member, from Venezuela. Their participation is part of APC WNSP's effort to have more women trained in wireless networking, as plans for future women and wireless workshops ripen.

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION

The APC network last met face-to-face in Varna, Bulgaria in October 2005. Photo: APC

APC's network is extensive. By December 2005, it included 39 member organisations in 32 countries and a vast community of partnerships. Maintaining a strong sense of community, ownership, strategic direction, sustainability, achievement—and fun!—is a lot of work.

A strong sustainable network does not just happen. Building a vibrant network—where a diverse group of organisations from multiple countries and speaking multiple languages feel included, acknowledged and respected—requires providing a range of activities and opportunities, and creating an environment where all have access to the information, tools and knowledge they need. In our case, members get involved in programme activities. There's a range of online knowledge-sharing spaces. We offer small grants to members to develop collaborative projects together and opportunities to participate in events that are relevant to our collective strategic priorities. We hold regular face-to-face and online meetings for members at regional and global levels. And there's constant interaction between staff and members.

APC's membership has grown over the past ten years, and has seen an increase in membership interest in the past five. Some of this can be attributed to the high visibility and credibility APC gained through its work in the World Summit on the Information Society, and some to its local and regional work in projects, such as the GEM project, the Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa project (CATIA), the wireless and FOSS workshops, and through our work in coalitions such as the Building Communication Opportunities alliance and the Global Knowledge Partnership.

In 2005, APC created a new position—the networking and advocacy coordinator—to focus more concretely on individual member needs, membership growth, networking and partnership building, and advocacy and campaigns work. A member network survey assessed the health and "network well-being" of the members. Results are being used for planning in 2006 and beyond.

The membership exchange fund (MEF)

The MEF, which aims to support member-driven skills-sharing, internships, and planning for collaboration among APC members, was launched in May 2005. The fund supports APC member staff travelling to visit one another when effective collaboration requires on-site work or face-to-face meetings.

Two exchanges were supported during 2005. A technician from Colnodo in Colombia visited Peru to train staff from APC's Peruvian and Ecuadorian member organisations in how to use Colnodo's GIS "Mapas" software. A representative from c2o in Australia visited Koreans Jinbonet to establish collaboration on Synesthesia Urbania,[76] a project integrating the use of mobile and locative devices that will see participants in Seoul and Melbourne populate a bi-lingual directory of Creative Commons-licensed video and audio clips, text and photos.

APC asked members "What do you like about APC meetings and workshops?"

"Face-to-face meetings are very rich. Especially when one is working virtually, nothing replaces a personal encounter. Members' organisations have difficulty keeping up with APC's rhythm and dynamics during the year. It is a bit frustrating. So face-to-face meetings are renewing, because online spaces sometimes become a flop."

"To meet face-to-face is an opportunity to establish new relationships and to make the ones that already exist stronger. Council meetings help to make a network of people, instead a network of machines."

"The training opportunities provided by APC have been of tremendous support to us. The training one of our techies has received in wireless technology has been a huge leap for him, [our organisation in Peru] CEPES and the Latin American wireless network."

Travel grant for policy-related travel

The CIPP travel grant was established in early 2005 to build member capacity and involvement in policy processes the APC network has prioritised, promote member policy work nationally and internationally, and support members in connecting international processes to local processes. Members—including groups from Colombia, Bulgaria, Mexico, Uganda, Uruguay, Pakistan, Nigeria and more—primarily used the grant to attend regional or international WSIS meetings.

The value of the grant has been so useful in terms of building member participation and collaboration that we are expanding the scope of the grant to allow members to travel to events that are not specifically policy-related but are still linked to APC's strategic priorities, e.g. events focusing on open content, intellectual property, access to knowledge, and open source. These issues reflect APC's expanding thematic priorities in the coming years.

APC getting face-to-face

Face-to-face meetings for APC members are an essential element in building the strength and well-being of the APC network. For a network that works primarily in an online environment (and does this very effectively), face-to-face meetings are the times when members strengthen relationships, develop collaborative actions, exchange knowledge and learning, build capacity though skills-building workshops—often with fellow members as trainers and/or resource people—and take

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[76] http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=77582

strategic decisions regarding APC's position on policy issues and campaigns and APC's long-term strategic direction.

Since 2004, APC fundraises to host two regional member meetings per year. We hold one face-to-face council meeting attended by all APC member organisations every two years and one online council meeting per year.

In June 2005, eight members from Europe met in Umag, Croatia. This was one of the first meetings where APC applied the 'open space' meeting methodology, which contributed greatly to members being fully engaged in the meeting—from agenda-setting, to prioritisation of collaborative activities, to action planning. Highlights of the meeting included a decision to explore consolidation of APC Europe by the establishment of an office in Brussels to facilitate lobbying, advocacy and have easier access to the EU funding procedures and budgets, a mapping of critical ICT policy issues in the Central and East European region, and the development of ICT policy curriculum units for use by civil society in the CEE.

Impressions of the APC European Meeting from two newcomers to APC

"[This was] my first opportunity to put faces to this online wide community and to learn directly about APC European members, sharing our experiences, strategies and practices. My impression is of a diverse and dynamic community, committed and ready to take the challenges of complexity, the identification of priorities and their development in action plans as a method for building up and agree on shared framework and a real-time use of technology i.e. the wiki which made the working group outcomes available to those present and online. This is something I will be taking back home with me." — Valentina Pellizzer, Unimondo based in Sarajevo

"The APC Europe meeting was two and a half intense days of reports, discussion and planning. This was my first chance to meet other APC representatives and APC staff, and everyone was welcoming and relaxed. The agenda was often revised using 'open space' methods, which kept consensus, and there was progress on common interests like open source migration." — Cedric Knight, GreenNet from London

Location of APC members in June 2006. Graphic: APC

In October 2005, 32 members and almost all APC staff came together by the Black Sea coast in Varna, Bulgaria, for the biennial council meeting.[77] A range of collaborative actions was developed by members, including an initiative to address one of APC's two cross-cutting strategic priorities—environmental sustainability and ICTs; activities that allow APC members to offer FOSS migration services to their user communities; a commitment to do an APC-wide impact assessment of our collective work the past five years, and strategies for the World Summit on the Information Society Tunis Summit, which was held just after the meeting in November 2005.

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[77] http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=1848226

2005 was the final year of the WSIS process, which had started for APC in 2001. The WSIS Tunis Summit saw the largest gathering of APC members at an international event ever, with 21 members participating.

The WSIS provided many organisations, including APC, with the opportunity to meet regularly, network, build coalitions around common platforms, and strengthen partnerships in thematic areas over a reasonable period of time—some five years. With the end of WSIS, APC faced the challenge of how to sustain new partnerships and coalitions in the absence of an international process that provided momentum for ongoing engagement, and to respond to the priorities of members who hadn't invested energy and resources in the WSIS process.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

APC's communications builds APC's public profile by ensuring an active, recognisable, representative APC presence in the media and APC's target communities. APC's profile grew considerably in 2005. According to the Webalizer software installed on our server, visits to our websites have increased dramatically over recent years. Visitors frequently come from around 150 country domains each month (145 in December).

APC Website	Average no. of visitors per day	Average no. of pages viewed per day	Total individual visits	Total no. of pages viewed
2005	4,475	22,179	1,611,741	7,933,718
2004	2,581	18,305	942,641	6,693,095
2003	1,841	16,485	618,945	5,589,089

The increasing popularity of redesigned sub-websites is partially responsible for this growth. The Africa ICT policy monitor, relaunched in late October 2004, has seen monthly site visitors leap almost 530%, from 4,700 in June 2004 to 16,200 in December 2004, to 20,400 in May 2005, to 24,800 in January 2006.

APC has become recognised as a specialist in our area by media. Prestigious news agencies such as the BBC are sourcing stories from our newsletters and lists. Our press lists (in English and Spanish) are growing steadily. APC staff actively outreach to members of the press we meet at events and we attend conferences dedicated to the media and ICT to improve our contacts and get critical feedback on our media presence and announcements. Part of the uptake by the press in 2005 is due to new English/French/Spanish blogs. The blogs were piloted at WSIS to allow the APC community and beyond an outlet for opinions and observations that don't find a place in the more journalistic APCNews or our in-depth publications. The blogs appear in the homepages of all principal APC sites, including policy monitors. We are seeing new voices emerging in the network for the first time. The blogs are "APC with attitude".

In 2005, APC worked primarily in English and Spanish, and strove to make our outreach as accessible as possible to an international community using English as a foreign language. Our team adheres to strict 'international English' guidelines and APC's language policy was used as a case study for and MMTK/FAO unit on "multilingual computing". The French blog introduced in 2005

gives APC a home for current coverage in French until we have a fully functional APC website in French and introduce APCNouvelles, the APC newsletter in French, by 2007.

A strategic goal has been to raise our profile at relevant events. The APC calendar of events included conferences, workshops and others, totalling more than 100, in locations ranging from Argentina to Iran to Tanzania in 2005.

On the APC site, we refer to our annual reports as a good "introduction to APC", and they continue to be downloaded frequently even years later. For example, in July 2005, even the 2003 report was downloaded around 1,600 times.

APC supports our vibrant network through internal communications, exchange, newsletters and the intranet. In response to member requests in Cartagena 2003, InsideAPC—an internal newsletter for APC members and staff focused on building collaboration across the network—is now produced three times a year and has a more easy-to-consult format. In 2005, APC programme staff began to produce special in-depth updates for each edition that focus on how members are or can get involved in current or future projects. The updates go on the intranet and InsideAPC summarises the highlights and provides links.

APC Members in 2005

AFRICA
ArabDev, Egypt http://www.arabdev.org
Arid Lands Information Network (East Africa), Kenya http://www.alin.or.ke
Community Education Computer Society (CECS), South Africa http://www.cecs.org.za
Enda-Tiers Monde (ENDA-TM), Senegal http://www.enda.sn
Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria http://www.fantsuam.org
SANGONeT, South Africa http://www.sangonet.org.za
Ungana-Afrika, South Africa http://www.ungana-afrika.org
Women'sNet, South Africa http://womensnet.org.za
WOUGNET, Uganda http://www.wougnet.org

ASIA-PACIFIC
Bytes for All.org, South Asia http://www.bytesforall.org
Community Communication Online (c2o), Australia http://www.c2o.org
Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA), Philippines http://www.fma.ph
JCA-NET, Japan http://www.jca.apc.org/
Korean Progressive Network Jinbonet, South Korea http://www.jinbo.net
Open Forum of Cambodia, Cambodia http://www.forum.org.kh
WomensHub, Philippines http://www.womenshub.net

CENTRAL EAST AND SOUTHERN EUROPE

BlueLink Information Network, Bulgaria http://www.bluelink.net

ChangeNet, Slovakia http://www.changenet.sk

Econnect, Czech Republic http://www.ecn.cz

Green Spider, Hungary http://www.zpok.hu

StrawberryNet, Romania http://www.sbnet.ro

ZaMirNET, Croatia http://www.zamirnet.hr

WESTERN EUROPE

ComLink, Germany http://www.comlink.org

Computer Aid International, United Kingdom http://www.computeraid.org

GreenNet, United Kingdom http://www.gn.apc.org

Pangea, Spain http://www.pangea.org

Unimondo, Italy http://www.unimondo.org

LATIN AMERICA

Centro Peruano de Estudios Sociales (CEPES), Peru http://www.cepes.org.pe

Colnodo, Colombia http://www.colnodo.apc.org

ESLARED, Venezuela http://www.eslared.org.ve

INTERCOM Ecuanex, Ecuador http://www.ecuanex.net.ec

Instituto del Tercer Mundo (ITeM) http://www.item.org.uy

LaNeta, Mexico http://www.laneta.apc.org

Nodo Tau, Argentina http://www.tau.org.ar

Rede de Informações para o Terceiro Setor (RITS), Brazil http://www.rits.org.br

Wamani, Argentina http://www.wamani.apc.org

NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (not including Mexico)

Alternatives, Action and Communication Network for International Development, Canada
http://www.alternatives.ca

Institute for Global Communications (IGC), United States of America http://www.igc.org

LaborNet, United States of America http://www.labornet.org

Web Networks, Canada http://www.web.net & http://community.web.net

New APC Members in 2005

Fundación Escuela Latinoamericana de Redes (ESLARED), Venezuela

The Latin American Networking School Foundation (ESLARED) was established in response to the need for training Latin Americans computer engineers in the design, installation, management and administration of academic computer networks. Located in Mérida, Venezuela, ESLARED has been

providing high-level training in ICT for techies from all professions since 1992 through its mega-training event –WALC- drawing on a group of highly qualified instructors from Latin America, North America and Europe. Members of ESLARED were a key factor in the development of the wireless broadband data communication network that has spanned the state of Merida since 1998. ESLARED has worked in collaboration with many APC members and were very warmly welcomed when they joined the APC network in early 2005. ESLARED: http://www.eslared.org.ve (APC member since April 2005)

Ungana-Afrika, South Africa

Ungana-Afrika is a small non-profit eRider organisation based in Pretoria, South Africa. Their goal is to build "a community of non-profit organisations within Southern Africa that have access to the technology and know-how necessary to better accomplish their goals." Their principal services are non-profit-focused ICT consulting (assessment, planning, training, implementation) and providing support for organisations to launch their own ICT consulting initiatives. They also run independent development projects that support their main programmes. Ungana-Afrika: http://www.ungana-afrika.org (APC member March 2005)

Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET), Uganda

The Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) promotes and supports the use of ICTs by women organisations and individuals. Their goal is to improve conditions of life for Ugandan women by enhancing their capacities and opportunities for exchange, collaboration and information sharing. Their work primarily focuses on development, gender equality, citizen participation and information

dissemination, including through community media. They are a small but active organisation. Their newsletter is a point of reference on what is happening in Uganda in ICTs. Dorothy Okello, WOUGNET Coordinator, and WOUGNET itself have been active members of APC-Africa-Women (AAW) since 1997 and 2000 respectively. WOUGNET: http://www.wougnet.org (APC member since May 2005)

Highlights from APC Members in 2005

APC members are information and communication technology (ICT) providers, but they are also, uniquely, sustainable development and social justice activists in their own right. We call them 'social techies'.[78]

Many of our members regularly send us news of their work promoting ICTs for social justice and development in their countries and regions—work that we feature in our regular monthly newsletter, *APCNews*, and its sister Spanish version, *APCNoticias*. Others sent us information about significant achievements to include in this report.[79] What follows are some of the outstanding stories from APC members around the world in 2005.

ALTERNATIVES, Canada: Promoting ICT development in Africa

In 2005, Alternatives continued its commitment to the development of information and communication technologies (ICT) in Africa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In January 2005, within the framework of the CATIA (Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa)[80] programme, Alternatives organised a multi-sectoral round table on ICT that brought together the different actors from government, media, private sector and civil society interested in promoting ICT in the DRC.

A new organisation, the Multi-sector ICT Dynamic (DMTIC), was created after this meeting. A plan of action, entitled "Campaign for the defence of information technology development", was developed and various training activities were carried out during the year particularly targeting Congolese media. A second meeting took place in February 2005, during the Pan-African Forum for the defence of ICT policy, when Alternatives brought together the delegates of six francophone African countries in Kinshasa. This workshop convened representatives from Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Cameroon, Benin and RDC. A website on ICT was also developed. Alternatives: www.alternatives.ca

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[78] "Appropriating the Internet for Social Change: Towards the strategic use of networked technologies by transnational civil society organisations," Mark Surman and Katherine Reilly/Social Science Research Council (SSRC), November 2003. http://www.ssrc.org/programs/itic/

[79] Other organisations that were members of APC in 2005 include ComLink (Germany), CECS (South Africa), Econnect (Czech Republic), Intercom Ecuanex (Ecuador), and StrawberryNet (Romania).

[80] http://www.catia.ws

ARABDEV, Egypt: Taking FOSS to the disadvantaged south of Egypt

A teacher helps students at a school lab while ArabDev techies configure the network. Photo: ArabDev

To spread free software and open source (FOSS) to the disadvantaged south of Egypt, ArabDev is working with two middle schools in the Al Menia governorate, and also with the Faculty of Computer Engineering at Menia University.

The project's objective is to establish a core group of FOSS users in Menia governorate as a local southern Egyptian diffusion point. This is done by the creation of computer labs or telecentres in several schools, which function in a relatively autonomous way and are open to the community. A big challenge had to do with financial aspects. ArabDev reached an agreement with the education department in order to establish a new system for fees collection and distribution, a model to be replicated at other schools. Another agreement was also negotiated, as FOSS is not officially permitted by the Ministry of Education, and agreed to by the local education district to support the use of FOSS at the school labs. ArabDev: www.arabdev.org

ARID LANDS INFORMATION NETWORK – EASTERN AFRICA (ALIN-EA), Kenya: Networking locally and globally

A farmer explains innovative non-chemical pest control methods to ALIN staff and government officials. Photo: ALIN-EA.

In 2005, ALIN-EA joined the Online Information Service for Non-Chemical Pest Management in the Tropics (OISAT) project in Kenya. In implementing the OISAT information pilot, a practical guide on minimising pest damage in an ecologically sound way, they are working with an agricultural school in Mwingi district.

At the same time, ALIN-EA continued to scale up their participation in the Open Knowledge Network, a global initiative linking thousands of marginalised and poor people in Africa, Asia and Latin America. They have created awareness among development organisations with a view to having them join the network. In collaboration with Baobab Communications Limited, ALIN's for-profit arm, they conducted on-site training in six partner-established access points, which grew from six to eleven, bringing the total number in Kenya and Tanzania to seventeen. Besides producing the *Baobab Journal*, ALIN-EA published 'ICT4D in Eastern Africa', a book detailing ICT experiences of various development actors in Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. The *Baobab Journal*[81] is published three times a year. ALIN-EA: www.alin.or.ke

BLUELINK, Bulgaria: BlueLink launched the first NGO e-elections in Bulgaria

BlueLink trains NGOs in how to develop their communication skills—in Sofia in December 2005. Photo: BlueLink

The first NGO e-elections in Bulgaria were held at the end of 2005, facilitated through the Civil e-Representation Platform designed by BlueLink. The platform[82] is an internet-based tool for election of representatives of NGOs in working groups and committees at the institutions dealing with elaboration and implementation of environmental and sustainable development policies in Bulgaria.

The Civil e-Representation Platform allows NGOs to nominate candidates, to vote and to obtain information on the active candidates in the various commissions and working groups, as well as to get acquainted with their reports. It aims at providing better transparency, both in the election process of NGO representatives, and in the work of state institutions, as the elected NGO representatives participating in the working meetings prepare regular reports, which will be accessible at the platform. BlueLink: www.bluelink.net

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[81] http://www.alin.or.ke/data/publications.htm
[82] http://www.bluelink.net/vote

Bytes For All, South Asia: Getting the community to grow online…

Bytes For All is one of the oldest ICT4D networks in South Asia, and has worked to revamp its own website so that the communities in South Asia can find it more comfortable to write blogs, to upload images, podcast, contribute to wikis or presentations, and document experiences. To keep the process going, Bytes For All has also integrated its most active ICT4D discussion forum—Bytes for All Readers Forum[83]—where peer-to-peer content is being generated on a regular basis.

Many in South Asia do not have access to the internet, so Bytes For All has set up a strategic partnership with a number of print media-based publications that reprint the content generated in their discussion forum and in the website. For example, I4D[84] in India has dedicated a two-page space where Bytes For All content is being republished. Similarly, there are content-sharing partnerships with Spider Magazine[85] in Pakistan and Express Computer[86] in India, and Bytes For All are seeking additional arrangements with other computer magazines in the region. Bytes For All has also started working to create two national ICT policy portals in Bangladesh and in Pakistan. Bytes For All: www.BytesForAll.org

CEPES, Peru: A venture on the internet helps sow a better crop

Chatting at the Chancayllo Telecentre.
Photo: Huaral Project.

2005 was a good year for the Agrarian Information System (known as SIA, from its initials in Spanish), a project that CEPES initiated in 2001 in the Huaral Valley, a rural area located 80 kilometres from the capital, Lima. It is a task that it has jointly undertaken with the valley's irrigation association with the objective of offering information to the country's small farmers so that they can improve their crops and the conditions under which they market their products.

Until 2003, information was collected manually. In 2005, not only was the first form digitalisation process consolidated, but statements began to arrive directly through the system, thus saving the time and personal effort dedicated to this work. Data collection is decentralised through telecentres, which are another of the project's pillars. CEPES: www.cepes.org.pe

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[83] http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bytesforall_readers
[84] http://www.i4donline.net
[85] http://www.spider.tm/
[86] http://www.expresscomputeronline.com/

CHANGENET, Slovakia: Slovak public wireless networks seen to be in danger

ChangeNet campaigned against restrictive radio licences by the Slovak Telecommunications Office. This governmental body had published a draft of its new general licence for operating radio devices in the public frequency band. But if the wording of the proposed policy remains unchanged, it could effectively put a block on thousands of devices around the country, warned the Bratislava-based network.

"According to the draft of the new licence, devices must be used only with their internal antenna or with an external antenna that is explicitly and exactly specified by the manufacturer in the technical documentation of the device,"[87] Norbert Brazda from ChangeNet stated. This could cause significant harm to public WiLL (wireless in local loop) networks and many smaller internet providers. ChangeNet: changenet.sk

COLNODO, Colombia: Third phase of the "Internet for accountability" project

The Municipality of Ginebra, in the department of Valle del Cauca, has implemented its web site through the Internet for Accountability project. Photo: Colnodo.

The Transparency for Colombia Corporation and Colnodo have been carrying out the Internet for Accountability[88] project. This has been achieved through the distribution of a new version of the tool (developed in previous phases) by the "Territorial Government On-line" programme of the Colombian Connectivity Agenda,[89] which has provided website development support for 275 Colombian municipalities. It is a way of improving the conditions of transparency of each municipality and of introducing management accountability practices to mayors. During its third phase, the coverage of public administration processes will be broadened and improved techniques will be introduced, especially regarding comptrollers. The increased national and international visibility of the municipalities and the promotion of a new type of citizen participation are expected. With this tool, based on free

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[87] http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=32626
[88] http:// www.iprc.org.co
[89] http://www.agenda.gov.co

software, they also seek to "favour the right and duty of citizens to be informed, give opinions and to monitor municipal administrators". Colnodo: www.colnodo.apc.org

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION ONLINE (c2o), Australia: New cultural commons between Korea and Australia

Syn-Urbania recording session. Photo: c2o

In collaboration with Art Center Nabi, Australian Embassy Seoul and APC member Jinbonet, c2o/Toy Satellite[90] and Secession Records produced Synesthesia Urbania.[91] APC contributed to the early development of this project via its Member Exchange Fund, supporting a research and development trip to Seoul, undertaken by Andrew Garton from c2o.

Synesthesia Urbania is a collaborative audio/visual public performance integrating mobile devices, a multilingual multimedia online workspace (moblog), collective copyright licensing and a custom 3D performance engine. The performance took place in Seoul from 1–2 October 2005. c2o: www.c2o.org

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[90] http://www.toysatellite.org/
[91] http://toysatellite.org/syn-urbania/

COMPUTER AID INTERNATIONAL, United Kingdom: Passing the 50,000 PCs mark
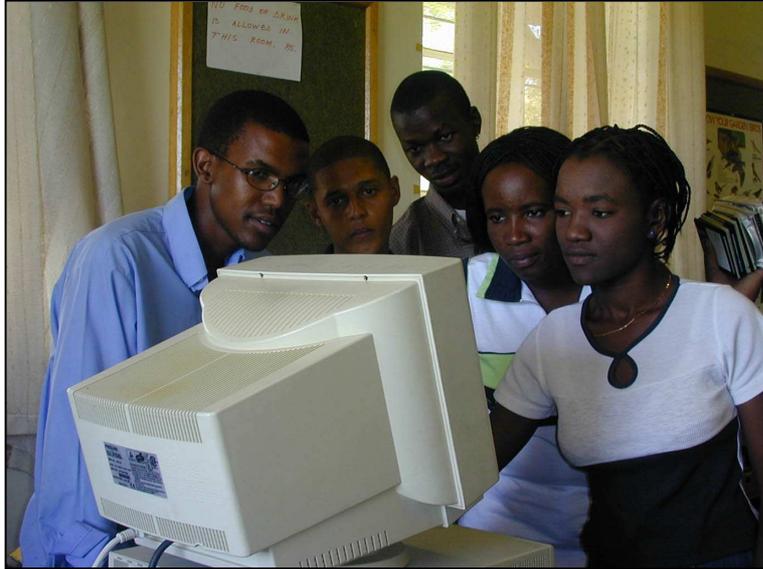
Children at a school in Namibia getting to grips with new technology. Photo: Computer Aid.

The number of personal computers provided to groups across the less-affluent world passed the 50,000 mark and grew to 59,400 by the end of the year. "The computers have been distributed to literally thousands of educational institutions and not-for-profit organisations in 99 different countries," said Tony Roberts, chief executive of Computer Aid International.

In July, Computer Aid was filmed by the BBC, both in Kenya and London. This was done to produce a short piece on their programme to support, amongst others, Computers for Schools Kenya.[92] Last but not least, a process of regionalisation began: two new offices were opened in Africa, in South Africa and Kenya. The new offices support existing and future partners in South and East Africa. Computer Aid: www.computeraid.org

ENDA, Senegal: Social Fora: Seizing opportunities

ENDA participated in the 2005 World Social Forum, which took place in Porto Alegre January 26–31. The thematic axes that they participated in were: the right to the city; popular responses to privatisation; youth, violence, urban segregation; Afro-descendants in Latin America; urban architecture; and sustainable development.

From February 1-4, a meeting between the entities that make up Environment and Development Action (ENDA) was organised in Porto Alegre as a follow-up to the Social Forum. The objective was to define the direction and main working themes of the network for the coming years, as well as the issues relating to its implementation.

The organisation also supported activities related to the African Social Forum,[93] which was held in Conakry, Guinea. ENDA: www.enda.sn

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[92] http://www.cfsk.org/

[93] http://www.africansocialforum.org/

ESLARED, Venezuela: Latino networkers connect up at Venezuela

Just as it is every year, EsLaRed was behind the VIII Latin American Workshop on Networking Technology (WALC 2005),[94] held in Merida, from July 25 to 30. Travelling down seven tracks, an estimated 220 participants from Latin America and the Caribbean take the fast road to picking up essential technical skills that promise to make it easier for the region to communicate with less hiccups and help build the much-needed not-for-profit networks and content-sharing links that serve the people of the continent.

WALC was hosted at the Faculty of Engineering of the Universidad de Los Andes de Venezuela. Skilled local and global coordinators aimed to train key players to plan and set up internet services in their country or region. WALC is building a "critical mass" of professionals in setting up the infrastructure needed for creating efficient networks and building cyber-bridges in the region. EsLaRed: www.eslared.org.ve

FANTSUAM FOUNDATION: Fighting heat, dust and the digital divide

Fantsuam Foundation focused its work on the development of a unique computer that can fight the heat and dust, and take on the challenging power situation of rural Africa: the Solo.[95] The most obvious difference with a regular PC is its wooden case, but it has also been specially engineered to work on very limited power supply.

One of the strategic features of the Solo is that it is an environmentally friendly high-tech solution for under-served communities. Its production is also intended to generate downstream opportunities of income generation and self-employment. One such opportunity is in respect to the wooden casing.

The foundation started its own plantation of teak wood so that they have a renewable source of good quality wood for the casing. The next phase is to transfer the ownership of these plantations to rural communities. The income will provide seed money for further agro-forestry, thus assuring a renewable supply of one of the Solo's raw materials while promoting income generation. Fantsuam Foundation: www.fantsuam.org

FOUNDATION FOR MEDIA ALTERNATIVES (FMA): A force behind FOSS

Philippine-based Foundation for Media Alternatives stepped up its advocacy on free and open source software (FOSS) with its major participation at the Linux World Philippines (LWP)[96] from September 14 to 16 in Makati City. For the first time, LWP provided a space for civil society organisations to enhance their knowledge, skills and orientation on FOSS as a political alternative, while at the same time enhancing spaces for dialogue with the technical community. FMA convened FOSS advocates in a public interest/advocacy track, organising panels on free software in

[94] http://www.walc2005.ula.ve/
[95] See related APCNews article on the Solo: http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=1129563
[96] http://linux.org.ph/events/linuxworld2005

government, health and education, as well as a policy dialogue with government representatives, and a roundtable on FOSS, GNU/Linux and gender.

This event was the highlight of a busy year for FMA in FOSS advocacy and capacity building when it organised the first FOSS training workshop for NGOs at the University of the Philippines. It convened a FOSS civil society working group (BUKAS), which has supported a Philippine bid to host an East/South-East Asian subregional node of the International Open Source Network.[97] FMA is partnering with the country's Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT)[98] in a joint policy paper on a strategic framework for FOSS in education. The Foundation started giving orientation and capacity-building sessions to help development organisations migrate to FOSS. The Foundation's FOSS advocacy and its larger engagement with various stakeholders, including ICT policymakers, are part of its ongoing advocacy and research program, "Policy, Praxis and the Public Interest". FMA: www.fma.ph

GREENNET, UK: 2005 – A dynamic year for GreenNet websites

"After 3 years developing tools for dynamic web site construction, it's great to see the results in the content-rich sites we have online now," said GreenNet staff (pictured left) in their Christmas letter to their user community. And the results were impressive, with major sites developed,[99] including for the Institute of War and Peace Reporting and Whiteband.org—recipient of the 2005 International Achievement Award for Excellence in Communication, given by Inter Press Service (IPS) news agency.

Increasing numbers of GreenNet members—the majority socially conscious non-profits and associations—chose easy forms-based dynamic web publishing to get their news and resources online. New features included online petitions, multilingual (including multi-script) pages, quick campaign mini-sites, and content sharing across sites, servers and continents. From small organisations to big international projects, GreenNet users started to keep their sites up to date and interactive.

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[97] http://www.iosn.net
[98] http://www.cict.gov.ph
[99] http://www.gn.apc.org/news/newsletter/n_dec05.html#5

The range of services from GreenNet web projects now included site planning consultancy, stylish and accessible graphic design, database management, content management system customisation, advanced search functionality, archiving, RSS news feeding, blogs, wikis, interactive calendars, discussion boards and petitions, multilingual functionality, and much more. GreenNet: www.gn.apc.org

GREEN SPIDER, Hungary: Software patents in Europe – When lobbying makes a difference

European parliament rejected, on July 6, a plan to allow software patents. Hungarian civil society organisations, including Green Spider Foundation, said they were thrilled to learn of the victory, after doing significant lobbying work against the EU Software Patent Directive.[100] The organisations had earlier set up a software patents working group.

Green Spider congratulated the European Parliament "on its clear 'No' to bad legislative proposals and procedures". Rejection of patents, it was argued, provides a "breathing space for new initiatives based on all the knowledge gained during the last five years". Green Spider: www.zpok.hu

IGC, EEUU: Tips and tricks for non-profits – get the most of the internet

In 2005, the Institute for Global Communications kept its "commitment to helping nonprofits working on advocacy campaigns get the most out of the internet today", through its online resources programme. Tips on how to develop a quick campaign, how to get technology assistance, and tricks for non-profits to make the most of the internet, can be found on the "Advocacy Tips"[101] section of their website. ICG: www.igc.org

ITEM, Uruguay: Studies on WSIS and monitoring of international financial institutions in Latin America

The Third World Institute (ITeM) participated in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) through its WSIS Paper research.[102] The objective consisted in generating a series of research projects on issues relevant to countries from the South, the results of which would contribute to the Summit deliberation process and support informed decision-making on behalf of the governments of these countries.

Also during 2005, ITeM coordinated the Latin American Monitor of International Financial Institutions (IFIs). The Monitor[103] selects, produces, translates and disseminates information and analysis of Bretton Woods institutions in Latin America in order to collaborate with the world

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[100] http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/focus_page/057-1002-255-09-37-909-20050819FCS01001-12-09-2005-2005/default_en.htm
[101] http://www.igc.org/html/advocacy.html
[102] http://wsispapers.choike.org/
[103] http://ifis.choike.org/

monitoring campaign to promote IFI reform. In this manner, it seeks to promote dialogue and collaboration amongst key actors, fomenting greater North-South interaction. ITeM: www.item.org.uy

JCA-NET: From e-mail inbox to anti wire-tapping in Japan

JCA-NET is an internet provider for Japanese NGOs. In 2005, they focused their work in campaigning against the Conspiracy Crime Law. Until now, an idea or a conversation could not be treated as a crime in Japan. But under a proposed change in law, an agreement between at least two persons could be treated as a crime in certain cases. If the police have evidence to prove a conversation could potentially be threatening the Japanese state, people involved could legally be punished.

"I think it is very dangerous. [It could impact on the] online world, internet, email, telephone conversation, or conversation in houses. If the act is passed, I think the police would have a right to wire-tap freely, because they would need to collect evidence of the 'conspiracy'," explained Tadahisa Hamada, chair of the organisation.[104] JCA-NET: www.jca.apc.org

JINBONET, Korea: Big Brother Awards

Big Brother Awards: The national ID number wins a prize. Photo: Jinbonet.

In 2005, Jinbonet coordinated the Big Brother Awards,[105] an initiative by Korean civil society to 'honour' government or private sector organisations that have done the most to threaten personal privacy. The organising committee conducted an online poll, and nominees were thoroughly examined by a panel of judges, consisting of experts covering various fields including information technology, human rights, law and securities.

The Most Appalling Project award was given to the national ID number, for structural violation of privacy leading to leakage or appropriation of private information. The Most Heinous Government Body was awarded to the Ministry of Information and Communication, for repeated attempts to

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[104] http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=4956466
[105] http://www.bigbrother.or.kr

introduce internet real-name system. According to the jury, the Most Greedy Company was "Phantom" of Samsung SDI, for monitoring its union leaders by using cellphone tracking technology. The ceremony was held at Seoul Women's Plaza on 22 November. Professional actors and actresses, satirically costumed or masked as the awardees, received the prizes, to the amusement of the audience. Jinbonet: english.jinbo.net

LABORNET: Supporting labour communication locally and globally

Panel at a LaborFest in SouthAfrica. Photo: Labornet.

LaborNet US is involved in developing and supporting labour communication and information training throughout the US and internationally. It helps provide support to a growing number of labour sites that have developed in the US, and is supporting the development of a international labour video and radio portal in different languages that will help provide information to workers throughout the world.
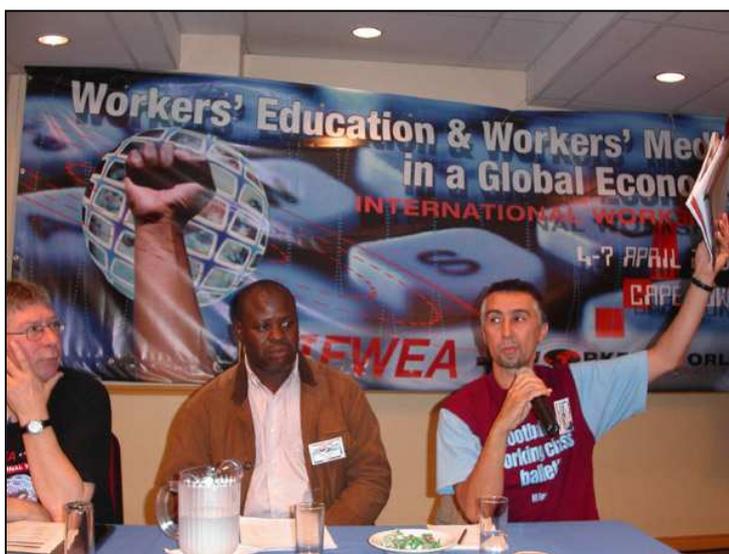
In 2005, LaborNet US helped support the launching of laborradio.org,[106] which has the only national daily labour radio show on the internet. It has supported LaborFest[107] initiatives in Japan, Korea, Buenos Aires, Bolivia, South Africa, and in Turkey. These labour festivals provided a vehicle for presenting labour videos and films from around the world and discussing how the use of communication and information technology can be used to support and build international labour solidarity and education.

In 2005, LaborNet also helped publicise and defend trade unionists and other workers who have come under attack by police and repressive legislation in South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and other countries. LaborNet: www.labornet.org

LANETA, Mexico: LaNeta is active in ICT training

During 2005, ten Mexican cities were the headquarters of the "Information Technologies and Institutional Development Module" that is a part of a "Professionalisation Certificate" for civil organisations, which has been driven by various social organisations with the support of the Social Development Institute of Mexico since 2003.

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[106] http://www. laborradio.org
[107] http://www.laborfest.net/

LaNeta was in charge of the module in which approximately 500 participants shared their knowledge on information and communication technologies, with the aim of strengthening their organisations. 195 Mexican organisations, working in community health, education, human rights and income-generating projects attended and shared their knowledge. Most of the participants were women. LaNeta: www.laneta.apc.org

NODO TAU, Argentina: Participative budgeting, ICTs and popular education

2005 was a year during which Nodo Tau faced new challenges in terms of training activities. The government of Rosario, where the organisation has its headquarters, implemented a participative budgeting mechanism[108] via which the inhabitants define their priorities regarding the city. In the western district, one of the most poverty-stricken areas of the city, neighbours declared themselves in favour of carrying out computing workshops.

Local authorities seized this opportunity and used the technological training to disseminate and consolidate citizen participation processes. This is when Nodo Tau came onto the scene, to provide training on the use of ICTs as tools for social transformation. Using a popular education approach, they trained fourteen male and female instructors, who will later be in charge of training some 1500 people.

OPEN FORUM OF CAMBODIA, CAMBODIA: Community information in Khmer and FOSS training for teachers

FOSS training for teachers. Photo: Open Forum

In 2005, the Open Forum of Cambodia focused part of its work on the Community Information Centre web portal,[109] the only large web portal available in the Khmer language. The portal team worked with media organisations, NGOs, and other development-related organisations, as well as government institutions, to collect, organise and post the information they provide.

Capacity building was also a priority. Along with the National ICT Development Authority[110] of the Cambodian government, they trained 300 computer end-user teachers to attain proficiency in

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[108] http://www.rosario.gov.ar/sitio/informacion_municipal/pp.jsp?nivel=InfoMuni&ult=I_5
[109] http://www.cambodiacic.org
[110] http://www.nida.gov.kh

using free and open source software such as OpenOffice, and 30 GNU/Linux administrators (for whom Open Forum is developing training materials in Khmer). Potentially, more than 350 people can be trained in Phnom Penh and at least six other provinces in teacher training centres and NGO offices. Open Forum: http://www.forum.org.kh/

PANGEA, Spain: Free software, a tool for solidarity

The Pangea premises. Photo: Pangea.

Pangea's goal is to promote information, knowledge and technical resource sharing among organisations and social movements for the effective and strategic use of ICT—particularly the internet—in a manner that is sustainable and respectful of the diversity and the values of local and global culture. One of the central axes of "Internet Solidario" (Internet Solidarity) is free software.[111] In 2004, the "GNU/Linux Migration for non-profit organisations" project took its first steps: a study and pilot were carried out, a manual was drafted, courses were given, and personalised installations took place in some organisations. In 2005, the project was consolidated. The working guidelines defined in the previous phase remained in effect, and in March a series of talks were given about migration. Civil society representatives, technicians and the general public shared their experiences and points of view. Informal conferences about technical aspects were held, and participative spaces where individuals in attendance could ask questions were made available. What was the objective? To disseminate the possibilities of free software and the migration, as well as to publicise a project that demands an effort but generates satisfaction. Pangea: www.pangea.org

RITS, Brazil: Research, training and regional integration

Nupef Launch. Photo: RITS

In 2005, the Third Sector Information Network (RITS)

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[111] http://linux.pangea.org

launched Nupef—a research and training centre.[112] The objective of the centre is to carry out research and studies relating to civil society and to use the knowledge produced to carry out training so that beneficiaries are more successful in their social activism, particularly in the area of information and communication technologies. "We want to unite the practical part of civil society organisations, in other words, the development of projects, with theoretical reflection on their work and action areas and take advantage of the opportunity to disseminate what we produce," stated Graciela Selaimen, RITS Special Project Coordinator and Executive Coordinator of the new centre.

Another RITS initiative in 2005 was Rits.LAC,[113] a proposal for Latin American integration and strategising dedicated to strengthening civil society and promoting collaborative ties between participants. Its first product is a portal named "Social Mosaic – an informational selection from the perspective of Latin American civil society", which will be launched in 2006. RITS: www.rits.org.br

SANGONET, South Africa: First annual ICTs for Civil Society conference and exhibition

SANGONeT hosted its first annual "ICTs and Civil Society" conference[114] from 1–3 March in Johannesburg. The conference focused specifically on the ICT challenges facing the civil society sector, highlighting and promoting practical benefits, opportunities and lessons learned to date. It provided an opportunity to both CSOs that are ICT-enabled, as well as those organisations that are considering introducing ICT solutions to their work, to discuss critical issues of common concern, and learn from one another's experiences.

The conference brought together a large number of South African CSOs to discuss and debate a wide range of ICT issues and to participate in technology demonstrations and practical training sessions, which covered a range of topics to enhance the ICT skills of participants. The varied and comprehensive programme catered for all needs and interests, from basic introductory training sessions to the discussion of cutting-edge developments. SANGONeT: sn.apc.org

UNGANA-AFRIKA, South Africa: Ungana-Afrika wins 2005 Dirk Award

APC member Ungana-Afrika won the 2005 Dirk Award,[115] given annually to circuit or eRiders making an extraordinary contribution. eRiders are ICT capacity-builders for development organisations, and work in a movement that spans more than twenty countries.

"With its emphasis on technology, social justice, and community empowerment, the small staff of Ungana-Afrika has taken the principles of eRiding to innovative new levels with its trainings and capacity-building workshops and innovative projects such as those focusing on community radio

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[112] http://www.nupef.org.br/
[113] http://www.ritslac.org/
[114] http://sangonet.org.za/conference2005
[115] http://www.dirkaward.org

and free and open source software within an African context," said the prize announcement.[116]
Ungana-Afrika: www.ungana-afrika.org

Rudi von Staden and Toni Eliasz accept the 2005Dirk Award on behalf of Ungana-Afrika during the World Summit on Information Society in Tunis, Tunisia. Photo: Allen Gunn

UNIMONDO, Italy: Building an online community of activists in the Balkans

Unimondo (the Italian portal from the OneWorld network) was the founder of a three-year initiative to build OneWorld in Southeast Europe (OWSEE).[117] OWSEE is an online community for both text and audio news that promote the civil society in the respective countries of the region, creating a dynamic and unique environment for learning and networking between civil initiatives and citizens, donors, and other online media.

However, what has started out as a news portal is on its way to becoming an organisation in its own right, based in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, but operating regionally in South East Europe. Other initiatives and projects developed include the news portal in local languages of the south-east European region, gender and ICT workshops, the national ICT policy monitoring portal, a responsible tourism network, and curricula for volunteers and online communication. Unimondo: www.unimondo.org

WAMANI, Argentina: Intranets, virtual campuses and real strategic alliances

The Amnesty International virtual campus spans Latin America and the Caribbean. Image: Wamani

Throughout 2005, Wamani's technical team worked on the development, implementation and experimentation of a group of tools to support training and

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[116] http://www.aspirationtech.org/dirk_award_2005?PHPSESSID=40f82cba6995dca0a99c31972657cf75
[117] http://see.oneworld.net

distance education processes, as well as support systems (intranets)[118] for the internal and external operations of organisations or networks.

One of the distance learning projects evolved into the implementation of an intranet and a campus for the whole of Amnesty International in the Latin American and Caribbean region.[119] The tools are currently in use and connect to the dynamic websites of Amnesty chapters sections in ten countries that also use ActionApps (a content-management system first developed by APC).

Wamani established strategic alliances with researchers and experts in distance education, as well as organisational development, management and the development of human resources. It has put together a team of professionals with multilingual support that enabled the implementation of new services that allow growth, and organisational support of national and international scope.
Wamani: www.wamani.apc.org

WEB NETWORKS, Canada: ICTs supporting indigenous and less commonly taught languages

Inuit project partner Leena Evic during her first visit to Guatemala. Photo: Web Networks

Web Networks is expanding its work with the Inuit of Nunavut in the Canada Arctic to include indigenous groups located thousands of miles away in Central and South America. With innovative and accessible internet tools and the support from local social entrepreneurial NGOs, indigenous people and organisations are being empowered to step across the digital divide without leaving their language and culture behind.

The web.net project team is currently identifying settings in Guatemala, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, to demonstrate how web.net's unique internet tools can best assist teachers and local community service organisations support their language and culture. One interesting outcome from a mission to Guatemala in October 2005, hosted by local NGO Enlace Quiché,[120] was that using "avatars"—culturally-based, animated personalities who deliver tutorials in the primary language of the target audience—was seen as especially appropriate in rural settings that require an information literacy program as a first step in using ICTs.[121]

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[118] http://www.wamani.apc.org/canales.html

[119] http://www.amnistiainternacional.org/

[120] http://www.enlacequiche.org.gt

[121] http://www.lctquicklearn.com

Web.net's team has also developed a new literacy-delivery module, "Yodigo", which combines an entertaining online space with the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) model to capture and hold students' attention.[122] Web Networks: www.web.net

## WOMENSHUB, Philippines: Secure computing, online communications workshop for Asia

In 2005, the APC partnered with WomensHub in a train-the-trainers workshop on secure computing and online communications for NGOs, held from 20–24 May 2005 in Manila, Philippines.

Fourteen development organisations and groups from South and South-East Asia participated in the workshop, which proceeded from the premise that as civil society organisations increasingly use personal computers and online communication tools, they are becoming more prone to ever-advancing threats ranging from malware (viruses, spyware or adware, spam, phishing) to digital surveillance and interception, and even the seizure of equipment.

This four-day workshop was intended to strengthen their capacities, by raising awareness on the vulnerabilities of available means of digital communication. It also sought to introduce simple, low-cost tools to promote privacy and security in their organisations, and help them design strategic and appropriate training activities for their constituencies. WomensHub: www.womenshub.net

WOMEN'SNET, South Africa: Telling girls' stories

In 2005, Women'sNet continued working on a youth project called Girls'Net,[123] which was launched in 2004. This first phase of Girls'Net involved fun provincial training camps, each with its own theme (such as children's rights or gender-based violence). The girls worked using different multimedia processes to develop content for the new and exciting Girls'Net web site. The project encourages girls to use technology for their own development by telling their stories and networking with each other.

Girls Get the Mouse!   Pic: Girls'Net
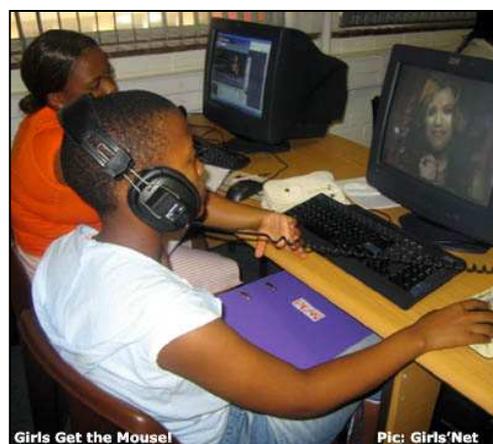
Since its beginning, 66 girls from four provinces (Eastern Cape, Limpopo, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal) were trained in basic computer literacy, writing and developing content for the internet. The girls started adding stories, poems and information to the draft website, using an open source content management tool first developed by the APC technical community called ActionApps. Women'sNet: www.womensnet.org.za

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[122] http://www.yodigo.tv
[123] http://womensnet.org.za/GirlsNet

WOUGNET: Enhancing access to agricultural Information through use of ICTs by women farmers

In 2005, WOUGNET implemented a project on access to agricultural information through use of ICTs by women farmers in Apac District. A baseline study was undertaken to identify information needs of women farmers. Findings from the field showed that there was over-dependency on traditional subsistence crops, farmers lacked markets for farm produce and information on how to improve commercial farming, and there were limited non-farm employment opportunities.

A functional and business analysis workshop was held in Apac at the beginning of April. In a third stage, information was collected, translated, repackaged and disseminated to the project beneficiaries, in the form of radio programs, listeners' clubs, and through dissemination meetings. Women farmers were able to access information such as best practices in crop production, pest management and soil fertility improvement. WOUGNET: www.wougnet.org

ZAMIRNET, Croatia: A new network of independent media

APC member ZaMirNET (ForPeaceNET) is dedicated to the promotion of civil society and its values through ICT and the development of new media initiatives. One example is ZaMirNET's media project ZaMirZINE[124]—an electronic news magazine specialising in themes related to civil society.

Through research, ZaMirNET has found that the mainstream media tend to represent civil society organisations with a sensationalist and sometimes biased perspective, while NGO members lack the journalistic skills to systematically report the news about their sector in a professional way. So ZaMirZINE was developed as an inclusive media environment, based on knowledge transfer between activists, young journalists and established journalists. ZaMirNET: www.zamirnet.hr

Directory: Governance and Staff

Incoming executive board members in 2005 (October 2005-2007)

Natasha Primo, South Africa (Chair)
Olinca Marino, Mexico (Vice Chair)
Danijela Babic, Croatia (Secretary)
Mark Graham, USA (Treasurer)
Mihaly Bako, Romania
Danilo Lujambio, Argentina
Kong Sidaroth, Cambodia
Valentina Pellizzer, Italy
Alternates: John Dada, Nigeria; Andrew Garton, Australia

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[124] http://www.zamirzine.net/

Outgoing executive board members in 2005 (October 2003–October 2005)

From left to right: Olinca, Julian, Danilo, Chris, Danijela, Oh Byoung-il, Natasha. Photo: APC

Julián Casasbuenas, Colombia (Chair)

Olinca Marino, Mexico (Vice Chair)

Natasha Primo, South Africa (Secretary)

Chris Nicol, Spain (Treasurer)

Danijela Babic, Croatia

Oh Byoung-il, South Korea

Danilo Lujambio, Argentina

John Dada, Nigeria

Council Representatives in 2005

AFRICA

ALIN, Kenya: James Nguo, Catherine Njuguna

ArabDev, Egypt: Leila Hassanin, Manal Hassan

CECS, South Africa: Arnold Pietersen

ENDA, Senegal: Youba Sokona

Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria: John Dada, Kazanka Comfort

SANGONeT, South Africa: David Barnard

Ungana-Afrika, South Africa: Toni Eliasz, Ryan Jacobs

Women'sNet, South Africa: Natasha Primo, Sally Shackleton

WOUGNET, Uganda: Goretti Zavuga Amuriat, Milton Aineruhanga

ASIA PACIFIC

Bytes for All, South Asia: Partha Pratim Sarker, Zunaira Durrani

c2o, Australia: Andrew Garton, Justina Curtis

Forum for Media Alternatives (FMA), Philippines: Alan Alegre

JCA-NET, Japan: Fujino Satoshi, Hamada Tadahisa

Jinbonet, South Korea: Oh Byoung-il, PatchA

Open Forum Cambodia, Cambodia: Kong Sidaroth, Norbert Klein

WomensHub, Philippines: Pi Villanueva

EUROPE

BlueLink, Bulgaria: Pavel Antonov, Milena Bokova

ChangeNet, Slovakia: Norbert Brazda

ComLink, Germany: Stefan Hackenthal

Computer Aid, United Kingdom: Tony Roberts, Sonia Sinanan

Econnect, Czech Republic: Vaclav Klinkera

GreenNet, United Kingdom: Cedric Knight, Michael Moritz

Green Spider, Hungary: Zoltan Varady, Robert Fridrich

Pangea, Spain: Leandro Navarro

StrawberryNet, Romania: Mihaly Bako

ZaMirNET, Croatia: Danijela Babic, Zeljko Bagaric

LATIN AMERICA

CEPES, Peru: Carlos Saldarriaga Vidalon, Maicu Alvarado

Colnodo, Colombia: Julián Casasbuenas, Olga Paz

ESLARED, Venezuela: Edmundo Vitale, Ermanno Pietrosemoli

INTERCOM, Ecuador: Oswaldo Chiriboga

LaNeta, Mexico: Olinca Marino, Erika Smith

Nodo Tau, Argentina: Danilo Lujambio, Luis Pipo Martinez

RITS, Brazil: Paulo Lima, Carlos Afonso

Third World Institute (ITeM), Uruguay: Magela Sigillito, Pablo Accuosto

Wamani, Argentina: Carlos Alvarez, Rodolfo Rapetti

NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (not including Mexico)

Alternatives, Canada: Michael Lambert, Daphnée Dion-Viens

IGC, USA: Mark Graham, Mitra

LaborNet, USA: Steve Zeltzer, Erika Zweig

Web Networks, Canada: Oliver Zielke, Alan Dixon

Staff Team in 2005

Management Systems Staff

Executive Director – Anriette Esterhuysen – South Africa

Networking and Advocacy Manager – Karen Banks – United Kingdom

Finance Manager – Maya Sooka – South Africa

Communications Manager – Karen Higgs – Uruguay

Information Coordinator – Frédéric Dubois – Germany (September onwards)

Interim APCNews editor – Frederick Noronha – India (from May)

Operations Manager – Estelle Baker – South Africa (September onwards)

Logistics and Events Coordinator – Vanessa Ourique Purper – South Africa

Technical Information Coordinator and Finance Assistance – Fatima Bhyat – South Africa

Systems Administrator: Pep Turro – Spain (until August); RITS – Brazil (from September)

Programme Managers

Women's Networking Support Programme – Chat Garcia Ramilo – Philippines

Communications and Information Policy Programme – Willie Currie – USA

Strategic Uses and Capacity Building – Ann Tothill – Australia

APC staff at their once yearly full staff team meeting. Ithala, South Africa, April 2005. Photo: APC

Programme Teams

Most of these people work part-time, and some for more than one programme.

Women's Programme (APC WNSP)

APC-Africa-Women Coordinator – Jennifer Radloff – South Africa

Asia Pacific Regional Co-Coordinators – Cheekay Cinco – Philippines, Jac Kee Siew Min – Malaysia

LAC Regional Coordinator – Dafne Plou – Argentina

Central and East Europe Regional Coordinator – Lenka Simerska – Czech Republic

GenderIT Portal Coordinator – Katerina Fialova – Czech Republic

APC WNSP/GKP Gender and ICT Awards Coordinator – Mylene Soto Sol Cruz – Philippines

Communications Coordinator – Erika Smith – Mexico

Communications and Information Policy Programme

Latin America ICT Policy Monitor Project Coordinator – Valeria Betancourt

Latin America ICT Policy Monitor Information Worker – Diana Andrade – Ecuador (to April), Clio Bugel – Uruguay (October onwards)

Africa ICT Policy Monitor Project Coordinator – Emmanuel Njenga Njuguna – Australia

Asia Policy Monitor Content Coordinator – Partha Pratim Sarker – Bangladesh/Canada

Strategic Use and Capacity Building Programme

Knowledge Sharing Projects Coordinator – Karel Novotny – Czech Republic

Strategic Use and Capacity Building Programme Assistant – Anna Feldman – United Kingdom

ItrainOnline Site Editors – Adolfo Dunayevich and Erika Smith – Mexico

ActionKit Coordinator – Zoltan Varady – Hungary

Tribute to Chris Nicol: A board member, council representative and friend

Chris Nicol at an APC board meeting in South Africa in March 2003. Photo: APC

On Monday, 29 August 2005, the APC network lost someone who was a colleague, a leader and a friend. Chris Nicol, member of the APC council and also of the APC executive board, died in Barcelona after more than a year of struggling against cancer.

An Australian who had been living in Barcelona for around 25 years, Chris also spent time in Nicaragua in the period just after the Sandinistas overthrew the Somoza dictatorship. He worked in the British Council in Barcelona for many years, he taught English and set down roots in Catalunya (Catalonia) in many ways—politically, culturally, socially and through his long relationship with his partner, Chenchy. Chris was also active in the Barcelona solidarity movement with the Zapatistas. He loved music, wine, and nature.

Chris became part of the APC community in 1995. His organisation, Pangea, was one of an association of Spanish internet activist organisations, which applied for APC membership. In 2000, Pangea[125] became a member of APC in its own right. Chris was part of Pangea from its first days, working sometimes as a volunteer and sometimes as staff, but always giving heart and soul to the organisation.

He first attended an APC council meeting in 1997 in South Africa, although many APC people had already met him by then. Chris was first elected onto the APC executive board at the APC council meeting in Uruguay in 2001, and at the time of his death he was APC treasurer. He worked tirelessly at an executive board meeting in South Africa in April 2005, even though he had only just finished another gruelling round of treatment.

It is very hard to express how much Chris meant in the network. His was always an active voice, supportive and sometimes critical. He was deeply committed to APC strengthening its advocacy role, to being more than a provider of member services. He was one of the first people in APC to raise the issue of free software, to start using GNU/Linux on his desktop, and to develop projects to support organisations in migrating their desktop environments to free and open source software.

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[125] www.pangea.org

Chris made two contributions to APC's work in his last years that will live on for a long time. He was the editor of *ICT policy: A beginner's handbook*,[126] which we published in English in late 2003, and in Spanish in 2005. In 2005, he drafted the outline of a free software initiative for the APC network.

Chris was a permanently engaged member of the APC team participating in the WSIS. He was a compass—always pointing to those actions that were necessary, just and not always easy—whether it was in solidarity around redressing unjust distribution of resources, fierce battles around intellectual property and free software, or insisting that the APC team met to communicate and strategise regularly in the hustle and bustle of the UN conferences.

APC will not forget Chris, and will be honouring him through a FOSS prize in his name, to be launched in 2006. The Chris Nicol Prize will reward FOSS initiatives that will reflect his passion and commitment to creating a more socially just world, and inspire others to continue the battle to do so.

APC Community Face–to-Face: Events that saw an APC presence in 2005

5–7 January: World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) South Asia Regional Consultation Meeting, Dhaka, Bangladesh

10–14 January: Strengthening the capacity of national machineries through the effective use of ICTs, UN Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)/UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

14–16 January: Mediterranean Social Forum, Marseille, France

18–19 January: Economic and Social Implications of ICT, Antigua, Guatemala

24–25 January: Building Communications Online (Building Communication Opportunities (BCO)) partnership meeting, London, UK

26–31 January: World Social Forum 2005, Porto Alegre, Brazil

28 January–5 February: Asia Open Source and Asian Secure Online Communications workshop, Bangalore, India

30–31 January: Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) Africa Meeting, Accra, Ghana

1 February: 3rd European Symposium on Gender and ICTs, Manchester, UK

1 February: What can Creative Commons and Open Content do for Africa?, Accra, Ghana

2–4 February: Second African Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Accra, Ghana

7–10 February: Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa (CATIA) 1C Component Francophone workshop, Kinshasa, DRC

11–13 February: DIPLO Multi-stakeholder Diplomacy Conference, Malta

13–15 February: Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) EXCOMM meeting, Malta

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[126] http://www.apc.org/books

14 February: Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) Closed 2nd Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland

15–16 February: Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) Open Consultation, Geneva, Switzerland

14–25 February: World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prepcom II, Geneva, Switerland

28 February–11 March: CSW Beijing +10 Review, New York, USA

1–3 March: First Annual SANGONeT "ICTs and Civil Society Conference", Johannesburg, South Africa

4 March: APC Creative Commons South Africa Workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa

15 March: APC Creative Commons Cape Town Workshop, Cape Town, South Africa

21–25 March: APC Wireless Workshop, Zanzibar, Tanzania

4–8 April: Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Meeting, Mar del Plata, Argentina

12–15 April: Computers, Freedom and Privacy Conference: Panopticon 2005, Seattle, USA

13–15 April: United Nations ICT Task Force Eighth Meeting, Dublin, Eire

18–19 April: Feminist Perspectives on Gender in the Information Society, Bangalore, India

18–20 April: Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) 2nd Meeting Geneva, Switzerland

19 April: APC staff writing workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa

20–30 April: APC Executive Board and Staff Meeting, Ithala, South Africa

28–29 April: Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa (CATIA) Meeting, Dakar, Senegal

1–3, 7 May: UNESCO consultancy regional group face-to-face meeting, Quito, Ecuador

3–4 May: Access to Knowledge Treaty, London, UK

3-6 May: Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) EXCOMM meeting and Annual General Meeting, Cairo, Egypt

4–6 May: Regional World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Technical Meeting, Quito, Ecuador

7–8 May: Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) workshop for GKP members, Cairo, Egypt

7–8 May: World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Gender Caucus meeting, Buenos Aires, Argentina

13–15 May: Free Press Conference, St Louis, USA

16–17 May: World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Thematic Meeting, Tokyo, Japan

17–18 May: German World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Internet Governance workshop, Cape Town, South Africa

19–24 May: South and South-East Asia Secure Online Communications Train-the-Trainers workshop, Manila, Philippines

19–22 May: AfroGEEKS: Global Blackness and the Digital Public Sphere, Santa Barbara, USA

23 May: Commonwealth World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and ICD, London, UK

24 May: European Union High Level Internet Governance meeting (HLIG) Brussels, Belgium

24 May: Using Creative Commons to License Publicly-funded Knowledge, Johannesburg, South Africa

25–27 May: Common-sense: Towards an African Digital Information Commons, Johannesburg, South Africa

29 May–02 June: High-level Asia-Pacific conference for World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Tehran, Iran

29 May–01 June: Global Democracy – Civil Society Visions and Strategies (GO5 Conference), Montreal, Canada

1–6 June: APC Europe Regional meeting, Umag, Croatia

1–7 June: World Bank Consultancy by the APC WNSP, Indonesia

2–3 June: ICT4D workshop for LAC community/popular radio technicians, Quito, Ecuador

8–10 June: World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Gender Caucus Latin America and the Caribbean meeting, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

12–14 June: Women and ICT: Creating Global Transformation, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

13 June: World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Friends of the Chair open meeting, Geneva, Switzerland

14–18 June: Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) 3rd meeting, Geneva, Switzerland

15–19 June: Incommunicado 05, Amsterdam, Netherlands

19 June: European Digital Rights Initiative (EDRI) annual meeting, Amsterdam

22–24 June: Commonwealth Secretariat's High Level Forum on Commonwealth Action Programme for the Digital Divide (CAPDD), London, UK

23–24 June, United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Civil Society 'hearings', New York, USA

23–24 June: World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Thematic Meeting on Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for Bridging the Digital Divide, Seoul, Republic of Korea

24 June: Sustainable Development, ICTs and Local Content in South Africa: Exploring Key Issues, Johannesburg, South Africa

24–25 June: World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Thematic Meeting on Multi-stakeholder Partnerships, Seoul, Korea

28 June–01 July: World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Thematic Meeting on Cyber-Security, Geneva, Switzerland

29 June: Thetha – SANGONeT Thetha on WSIS, Johannesburg, South Africa

6–8 July: G8 meeting, Edinburgh, Scotland

9–21 July: GRACE Methodology Workshop, Durban, South Africa

11–13 July: Advocacy II, San Francisco, California

11–15 July: Eclectic Tech Carnival, Graz, Austria

11–15 July: Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) meeting, Luxembourg

18–19 July: World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG), Geneva, Switzerland

25–29 July: WALC 2005 – VII Latin American Networking School and VIII Latin American and the Caribbean Workshop on Internet Technologies, Merida, Venezuela

26–27 July: CRIS Strategic Evaluation Meetings, London, UK

27-29 July: Building Communication Opportunities (BCO) bi-annual meeting, Lusaka, Zambia

1–4 August: APC Management Meeting, Johannesburg, South Africa

4–8 August: First Wikimedia Foundation international conference, Frankfurt, Germany

4–5 August: ICT policy workshops for Infodesarrollo.EC, Cuenca, Ecuador

6–8 August: APC Wireless pre-workshop trainers' meeting, Pretoria, South Africa

8–9 August: ICT policy workshops for Infodesarrollo.Ec, Guayaquil, Ecuador

24–26 August: Community Informatics Research Network (CIRN) 2005, Cape Town, South Africa

5–6 September: UNECA (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa) African Ministers on Internet Governance, Dakar, Senegal

5–6 September: ICT policy workshops for Infodesarrollo.Ec, Quito, Ecuador

7–8 September: Partnership for ICTs in Africa (PICTA), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

9–10 September: Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) Africa – facilitation training, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

14–16 September: Millennium Development Goals MDG+5 Review, New York, USA

17–21 September: APC Southern Africa Wireless Workshop, Pretoria, South Africa

12–14 September: Highway Africa 2005, Grahamstown, South Africa

24–29 September: Radio Fire Endeavour, Costa Rica

1–3 October: World Summit on Free Information Infrastructures, London, UK

4–12 October: APC Council face-to-face meeting, Varna, Bulgaria

9–12 October: Feminist Encounter, Sao Paulo, Brazil

27–30 October: Association of Women's Rights in Development (AWID) 10th International Forum, Bangkok, Thailand

31 October: APC WNSP staff communications workshop, Bangkok, Thailand

3 November: Workshop on Consumer Activity, Johannesburg, South Africa

4–6 November: Girl Pride Asia, Phuket, Thailand

7–10 November: Catalyzing Access to ICTs in Africa (CATIA) Component 1c Animators' Workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa

7–11 November: ICTs for the development of Indigenous People in the Andean Countries, Quito, Ecuador

10 November: Women's movement monthly breakfast, Buenos Aires, Argentina

10–13 November: ICT workshop for civil society, Irapuato, Guanajuato, Mexico

12–13 November: Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa

15–19 November: World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) II Summit, Tunis, Tunisia

24–27 November: AMARC Asia Pacific Regional Conference, Bali, Indonesia

1–2 December: OSIWA workshop on achieving affordable bandwidth, Senegal

1–4 December: Society for International Development (SID) International Congress, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

5–10 December: WENT Africa 2005, Kampala, Uganda

9 December: Content Filtering meeting, London, UK

13–18 December: Sixth World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference, Hong Kong, China

Publications and Research from APC

Books

Gender Evaluation Methodology for Internet and ICTs: A Learning Tool for Change and Empowerment, Chat Ramilo and Cheekay Cinco for APC and APC WNSP, Philippines, 2005
English: http://www.apcwomen.org/gem/gemdownloads/GEMforDownload_English_112005.pdf

Spanish: http://www.apcwomen.org/gem/gemdownloads/GEM_ESPANOL_042006.pdf

French: http://www.apcwomen.org/gem/gemdownloads/GEM_francois_042006.pdf

Assessing Communication Rights: A Handbook (CRAFT), with CRIS, London, November 2005

English: http://files.planetgrey.org/cris/crisinfo/CRAFT_en.pdf

Spanish: http://files.planetgrey.org/cris/crisinfo/CRAFT_es.pdf

French: http://files.planetgrey.org/cris/crisinfo/CRAFT_fr.pdf

Chapters contributed to other publications

'What Does the "Information Society" Mean for Social Justice and Civil Society?' in *Information Technologies and International Development*, MIT Press Journals, Volume 1, Number 3–4, Spring-Summer 2004, Cambridge. (published in 2005)

http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/1544752043557585

'Building Community Wireless Connectivity in Developing Countries', in *Mainstreaming ICTs: Africa Lives the Information Society*, APC for Women'sNet and OSISA, Johannesburg, 2005

http://www.osisa.org/files/mainstreaming_icts.pdf

'Collective strategising: A challenge to the women's movement – Latin American and Caribbean women getting ready', Dafne Plou (APC WNSP) for *Digitall Future: International Feminist Magazine* n2, Amsterdam, Spring 2005

http://www.penelopes.org/Anglais/xarticle.php3?id_article=1449

'WSIS: a difficult but interesting learning process', Dafne Plou (APC WNSP) for *Digitall Future: International Feminist Magazine* n3, Amsterdam, Winter 2005

http://www.enawa.org/scripts/wwwopac.exe?database=brief&isutf8=1&%250=700049&GEZOCHT OP=digital%20futures&isutf8=1&titel=Digital%20Future%20:%20International%20Feminism%20o n%20Paper

'Two women lobby for communications rights', Dafne Plou (APC WNSP) for *Digitall Future: International Feminist Magazine* n3, Netherlands, Winter 2005

http://www.enawa.org/scripts/wwwopac.exe?database=brief&isutf8=1&%250=700049&GEZOCHT OP=digital%20futures&isutf8=1&titel=Digital%20Future%20:%20International%20Feminism%20o n%20Paper

'Gender Evaluation Methodology' in *Mainstreaming ICTs: Africa Lives the Information Society*, APC for Women'sNet and OSISA, Johannesburg, 2005

http://www.osisa.org/files/mainstreaming_icts.pdf

'Behind the Mask – Acting beyond the traditional path', *I4D Magazine*, July 2005 Issue, New Delhi

http://www.i4donline.net/july05/behindmask_full.asp

'Civil Society in WSIS: A rite of passage', in UN ICT Task Force Series 8: *The World Summit on the*

Information Society: Moving from the Past into the Future, Karen Banks for United Nations Information and Communications Technologies Task Force (UNICT TF), September 2005, New York
http://www.unicttaskforce.org/perl/documents.pl?id=1544

'Women 2000 and Beyond: Gender Equality in Information and Communication Technologies', compiled by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (UNDAW), with the collaboration of Sonia Jorge, Nancy Hafkin and Chat Garcia Ramilo, UNDAW, New York, September 2005
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/public/w2000-09.05-ict-e.pdf

'Summits and Strategies', in *Big Brother Goes Global*, Karen Banks for Index On Censorship, Volume 3/2005, London, October 2005
http://www.eurozine.com/journals/indexcensorship/issue/2005-10-17.html

'Information and Communication Technologies for Rural Development: Issues and Options', The World Bank East Asia and Pacific Region Rural Development and Natural Resources Sector. Chat Garcia Ramilo was a member of the consultant team that developed 'Engendering Rural Information Systems in Indonesia', The World Bank website, October 2005
http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/main?pagePK=64193027&piPK=64187937&theSitePK=523679&menuPK=64187510&searchMenuPK=64187511&siteName=WDS&entityID=000160016_20051128173809

'The potential of ICT for promoting Gender Equality', in *Access, Empowerment & Governance Creating a World of Equal Opportunities with ICT*, Natasha Primo, for GKP, Kuala Lumpur, November 2005
http://www.globalknowledge.org/WSIS2005/index.cfm?menuid=19

'Participation in development processes: Can ICT make a difference?' in *Access, Empowerment & Governance Creating a World of Equal Opportunities with ICT*, Anriette Esterhuysen, for GKP, Kuala Lumpur, November 2005
http://www.globalknowledge.org/WSIS2005/index.cfm?menuid=19

'The working group on internet governance: a feminist conversation', in *Visions in Process II The WSIS*, Karen Banks, for Heinrich Boell Foundation, Berlin, November 2005
http://www.worldsummit2003.de/download_en/Visions-in-ProcessII(1).pdf

'La sociedad civil y la sociedad de la información: Participación en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Sociedad de la información', by Valeria Betancourt, for The Communication and Image Institute of University of Chile, presented at Special Colloquy 'Democratisation of Communications – from the MacBride Report to the Information Society', December 2005
http://lac.derechos.apc.org/cdocs.shtml?x=3008934

Issue papers

'Interconnection costs', by Mike Jensen, for the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), September 2005

English: http://rights.apc.org/documents/interconnection_costs.pdf

Spanish: http://rights.apc.org/documents/interconnection_costs_ES.pdf

French: http://rights.apc.org/documents/interconnection_costs_FR.pdf

'E-waste challenges in developing countries: South Africa case study', Alan Finlay, for the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), September, 2005

English: http://rights.apc.org/documents/e-waste_EN.pdf

'Paddling in Circles while the Waters Rise: Gender Issues in ICTs and Poverty Reduction', by Angela M. Kuga Thas, for the Gender and ICT Awards knowledge-sharing session at 10th AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development in Bangkok. The brief is the condensed version of the issues paper with the same title commissioned by APC WNSP, October 2005

http://www.genderawards.net/the_awards/2005a/mediabrief.htm

'World Summit on the Information Society: APC's Recommendation on Internet Governance', by Association for Progressive Communications (APC), November 2005

English: http://rights.apc.org/documents/apc_recommendations_ig_EN.pdf

Spanish: http://rights.apc.org/documents/apc_recommendations_ig_ES.pdf

French: http://rights.apc.org/documents/apc_recommendations_ig_FR.pdf

Selected articles

'Opinion: The Digital Solidarity Fund and The Economist', April 2005

http://www.apc.org/english/news/index.shtml?x=31481

'Creating Spaces for Civil Society in the WSIS – A Reply to Michael Gurstein', by Willie Currie, for the Heinrich Böll Foundation, 22 December 2005

http://www.worldsummit2003.de/en/web/848.htm

Newsletters

➢ *APCNews and APCNoticias:* APC's general monthly newsletter on the use of ICTs for social justice and sustainable development, produced in English and Spanish.

➢ *Chakula:* ICT policy news from Africa from the APC Africa ICT policy monitor.

➢ *Latin American and Caribbean 'Bulletin' on ICT policy in the region*: ICT policy news from Latin America and the Caribbean from the APC LAC ICT policy monitor.

➢ *Pula*: Promotes and profiles the work and activities of women and ICTs in Africa, highlights current issues and encourages the production of new knowledge on African women's use of ICTs. By APC-Africa-Women.

APC newsletters include **original writing** on the social use and impact of ICT.

Annual Financial Statements for 2005

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2005

	2005 USD	2004 USD
ASSETS	**1,493,503**	**639,173**
Non-current assets	**1,203**	**3,157**
Equipment	1,203	3,157
Current assets	**1,492,300**	**636,016**
Accounts receivable	18,603	25,262
Accrued income	326,584	263,181
Cash and cash equivalents	1,147,113	347,573
TOTAL ASSETS	**1,493,503**	**639,173**
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	**1,493,503**	**639,173**
Reserves	**407,197**	**184,315**
Reserve fund	313,300	112,737
Accumulated surplus	93,987	71,578
Current liabilities	**1,086,306**	**454,858**
Accounts payable	155,514	142,519
Deferred income	930,792	312,339
TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	**1,493,503**	**639,173**

Income Statement for the year ended 31 December 2005

	2005 USD	2004 USD
Income	**3,561,636**	**1,481,756**
Grant and contract income	2,696,331	1,133,834
Administration fees	200,833	87,531
Membership fees	25,492	24,900
Consulting revenue	133,014	41,296
Project implementation	505,420	188,925
Sales and other fees	452	497
Foreign exchange gains	-	4,718
Interest	94	55
Expenditure	**3,338,754**	**1,509,133**
Auditors' remuneration	8,600	6,000
Operational expenses	287,451	73,586
Programme and project expenses	2,736,886	1,183,881
Salaries and benefits	255,858	220,584
Telephone and fax	2,954	4,549
Translation services	5,242	1,926
Travel, accommodation and per diems	36,591	17,455
Website	5,172	1,152
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	**222,882**	**(27,377)**

Acknowledgements

- **Ford Foundation:** Global Advocacy on Communication Rights
- **Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP):** GEM consultancy; Gender and ICT Awards
- **Humanist Institute for Development Co-operation (HIVOS):** GenARDIS; Global ICT Policy Monitor
- **Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA):** Betinho Prize 2005
- **International Development Research Centre (IDRC):** Africa ICT Policy Monitor; Africa Hafkin Prize 2004–5; Betinho Prize 2005; Capacity Building for Wireless Connectivity in Africa; Institutional Support Project (INSPRO); Gender Research in Africa into ICTs for empowerment (GRACE); GenARDIS; Wireless Training workshop at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)
- **International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD):** GenARDIS
- **Open Society Institute (OSI):** Capacity Building for Wireless Connectivity in Africa; Secure Online Communications
- **Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA):** Creative Commons Southern Africa
- **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC):** Gender and ICT Policy Advocacy; Core support for APC's work
- **Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA):** GenARDIS
- **UK Department for International Development (DFID):** Building Communities Opportunities (BCO); Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa (CATIA) 1c; ItrainOnline
- **UNESCO:** Multi-Media Toolkit (MMTK)

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAW	APC-Africa-Women
ALIN-EA	Arid Lands Information Network – Eastern Africa
AMARC	World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters
APC	Association for Progressive Communications
ActionApps	an online content-management system initially developed by APC
AWID	Association of Women in Development
BCO	Building Communications Opportunities alliance
CATIA	Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa
CECS	Community Education Computer Society (South Africa)*
CEE/CIS	Central and Eastern Europe region and ex-Soviet states
CEPES	Peruvian Social Studies Centre*
CIPP	APC's Communications and Information Policy Programme
CMS	content-management system
CRIS	Communications Rights in the Information Society
CRISAL	CRIS in Latin America
CSOs	civil society organisations
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
CTO	Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation

DFID	UK Department for International Development
DGIS	Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
DMTIC	Dynamique Multisectorielle pour les Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication (Multisector Dynamics for Communication and Information Technologies)
EASSy	East African Submarine Cable System
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
EED	Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V. (evangelist volunteer service, Germany)
eLAC2007	A regional ICT policy strategy developed by governments for Latin America and the Caribbean
ENDA Tiers Monde	Environment and Development Action in the Third World (ENDA-TM)*
ESLARED	also EsLaRed (Escuela LatinoAmericana de Redes, or the Latin American School of Networking)*
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FMA	Foundation for Media Alternatives (Philippines)*
FOSS	free and open source software
GEM	Gender Evaluation Methodology
GKD	Global Knowledge Development email list
GKP	Global Knowledge Partnership
HIVOS	Humanist Institute for Development Co-operation (Dutch NGO: Humanistisch Instituut voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking)
ICA	Institute for Connectivity in the Americas
ICANN	Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
ICTs	information and communications technologies
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IICD	International Institute for Communication and Development
IMARK	an e-learning initiative in agricultural information management developed by FAO and partner organisations
INASP	International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications
ISP	Internet service provider
ITeM	Instituto del Tercer Mundo (Third World Institute)*
IXPs	Internet Exchange Points
LAC	Latin American and Caribbean
MMTK	Multimedia Training Kit
NGOs	non-governmental organisations
OKN	Open Knowledge Network
OSI	Open Society Institute
OSISA	Open Society Institute of Southern Africa
OSIWA	Open Society Institute of West Africa
OWSEE	OneWorld in Southeastern Europe
RITS	Third Sector Information Network (Rede de Informações para o Terceiro Setor) (Brazil)*

SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SEE	South East European region
SOC	Secure Online Communications
SSRC	Social Science Research Council
SU&CB	APC's Strategic Uses and Capacity Building Programme
UNDAW	United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
VoIP	Voice over Internet Protocol
WENT	Women's Electronic Network Training
WiLL	wireless in local loop
WNSP	APC's Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP)
WOUGNET	Women of Uganda Network*
WSF	World Social Forum
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society
ZaMirNET	"ForPeaceNET", Croatian APC member*
	All organisations marked with * are APC members